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Japan

Canadian Minister Criticizes 'Food Security' Idea

OW2110053691 Tokyo KYODO in English 0522 GMT 21 Oct 91

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 21 KYODO—Canada's agriculture minister said Monday in Tokyo that Japan's concept of food security is mistaken.

Speaking at a press conference to mark the opening of "Canada Meat Week" in Japan, Agriculture Minister Bill McKnight said food security "on a global plane" is the ideal every country must work toward.

But Japan's concept, which calls for barriers to imports on some products such as rice to protect domestic food production, is the wrong approach to food security, he said.

"If you believe there is an opportunity to acquire foodstuffs from around the world, then that would give you security of supply.

"If there are tariffs that are removed to allow exporting countries to develop their food base, then all of the world has security of food supply, not just individual countries.

"Security of supply can come from two places—from the world community or from the domestic community —but as you look around the world today I don't think there are very many countries that are able to have security of supply within their domestic borders," he said.

McKnight added that as long as barriers to trade in agricultural products exist, not only developed food exporting countries such Canada and Australia, but also countries in the developing world, are harmed.

Canadian farmers, he said, suffer because of a massive subsidy trade war between the United States and the European Community (EC) which leaves grain prices paid to individual farmers near the levels of 30 years ago.

But farmers in developing countries are hurt even more, he suggested, because prices for many farm commodities are held so artificially low that farmers in those countries cannot compete or trade internationally at all.

McKnight, who will meet Japanese Agriculture Minister Motoji Kondo on Tuesday, said he will press Japan to make concessions on opening its farm market so that multilateral trade talks under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) can be completed successfully.

On rice specifically, a major stumbling block in the Uruguay Round of global trade talks, McKnight said Canada is not a rice producer looking to tap the closed Japanese market, but he did suggest that other barriers to trade cannot be removed unless Japan and all other parties to the GATT talks are willing to make "hard political decisions."

Canada, he said, would be doing that in several areas where Canadian farmers are protected because "an open global market" is more important to global economic health than is protection of individuals in any one country.

McKnight said that during his meeting with Kondo he would press Japan to lift restrictions on pork imports, remove a tariff barrier to the importation of Canadian spruce, pine, and fir timber and lumber, and discuss several other areas of mutual concern.

"Canada Meat Week," designed to promote the use of Canadian beef, pork, turkey, and specialty meats in Japan, he said, is part of a government-business strategy in Canada to "go global" and obtain new markets around the world.

Canada is already Japan's fourth-largest supplier of food and Japan accounts for 13 percent of all Canadian food export sales. Last year, that was worth 1.6 billion dollars, with sales of beef and pork in Japan accounting for 165 million dollars of the total.

Canada Agrees To Oppose GATT Tariffs Formula

OW2210054291 Tokyo KYODO in English 0533 GMT 22 Oct 91

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 22 KYODO—The agriculture ministers of Japan and Canada agreed Tuesday to oppose growing moves at the Uruguay Round multilateral talks on farm trade to turn all import barriers into tariffs without exception, Japanese officials said.

Visiting Canadian Agriculture Minister Bill McKnight told Japan's Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries Minister Motoji Kondo that Clause 2 in Article 1 of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) should be clarified and strengthened. The clause allows import restrictions on items whose production is domestically controlled.

Kondo replied that Japan holds similar views on the question, the officials said.

Meeting the press later in the day, McKnight said although the two countries hold reservations about the tariffication question, their positions are by no means identical.

Banning imports, as Japan does with rice, is not the way to achieve food security and should not be accepted under the GATT, McKnight told reporters.

He said food security must come from open markets where trade-distorting subsidies are removed and everyone is on a "level playing field."

In cases where countries want to manage domestic supply, he said, "it must be assured" that domestic measures do not have any effect on the setting of international free market prices.

Asked if Canada would be prepared to lower or change wheat prices to win purchases from Japan because of lower-than-expected harvests in Australia, McKnight said, "we will not subsidize Japan. No one is prepared to extend the trade war (in grain sales) to Japan, but we are prepared to discuss further sales to Japan at the international price."

He also said Canada would support international calls for a ban on drift-net fishing, a move which he said would be humanitarian as well as protecting Canadian and international marine resources.

Economic Sanctions Against South Africa Lifted

OW2210021691 Tokyo KYODO in English 0131 GMT 22 Oct 91

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 22 KYODO—Japan lifted most of its economic sanctions against South Africa on Tuesday, saying it wants to improve economic conditions for the South African people as a whole and encourage dialogue between the country's white-minority government and the black majority.

Acting Foreign Minister Misoji Sakamoto said the decision was premised on the "irreversibility of the reform process" in South Africa and taken in light of Pretoria's "continued positive movement in the direction of establishing a democratic system free of racial discrimination."

"Restoring growth to that country's economy is important if we are to help improve the welfare of its people, including the black majority, and add momentum to process of negotiation now under way," Sakamoto told reporters.

The sanctions lifted Tuesday include a ban on direct investment and financing, on imports of South African pig iron and steel products, and on flights between the two countries.

Japan also ended its call on Japanese to exhibit "self-restraint" on imports of krugerrands and other gold coins produced in South Africa.

The only remaining sanctions are the restriction of diplomatic relations to the consular level, the ban on export of weaponry, and a ban on export of computer products to apartheid-enforcement agencies.

Foreign Ministry officials said Japan is still studying whether to upgrade diplomatic relations to the ambassadorial level.

In June, the Japanese Government welcomed the progress of reforms aimed at ending apartheid in South Africa by lifting bans on the issuance of tourist visas to South Africans, on sports, educational, and cultural exchanges, and on government officials taking international flights on South African Airways.

Tokyo also dropped an official advisory discouraging Japanese tourists from visiting the country.

Earlier this month, South African President F.W. de Klerk said he was "disappointed" with Japan, suggesting it was "out of step" with the United States and other countries on the question of sanctions.

A Foreign Ministry official said the government "concluded it would be of little actual significance for Japan alone to continue economic sanctions."

Japan's decision follows an announcement by the 50 Commonwealth leaders Friday to phase out sanctions to encourage South Africa's transition to democracy.

The United States lifted its economic embargo on July 10, saying that the white-minority government had met all conditions laid down by Congress in imposing sanctions.

The European Community (EC), which lifted restrictions on direct investment last December, agreed in April to drop a ban on the imports of iron, steel, and gold coins, though the Danish parliament is still holding up implementation.

The U.S. and the EC remain bound by a United Nations arms embargo against South Africa.

Tokyo's lifting of sanctions came after Japan earlier this month won a place as a nonpermanent member of the UN Security Council.

Japan only narrowly won a seat in previous balloting in 1986, when African countries used their votes to demonstrate annoyance at Japan's position then as Pretoria's largest trading partner.

In 1990, however, Japan was the fifth-largest trading partner of South Africa, tailing behind Germany, Britain, the United States, and Italy.

Japan last year imported South African goods worth 1.84 billion dollars, down 9.4 from the previous year, and exported 1.48 billion dollars worth there, down 14 percent.

Consul General Welcomes Decision

OW2110131091 Tokyo KYODO in English 1245 GMT 21 Oct 91

[Excerpt] Tokyo, Oct. 21, KYODO—Waldemar Kuhn, South African consul general in Tokyo, on Monday welcomed Japan's announcement that it will lift economic sanctions against South Africa, saying the move will give impetus to the reform process there.

Kuhn also called for cooperation between Tokyo and Pretoria on development programs in other African countries.

"With Japan's financial assistance and our expertise, we can play a central role in the development of Africa," he said. [passage omitted]

ANC, African Envoys 'Disappointed'

OW2210095391 Tokyo KYODO in English 0805 GMT 22 Oct 91

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 22 KYODO—The black nationalist African National Congress (ANC) Tokyo office expressed disappointment Tuesday at Japan's "hasty" abolishment of economic sanctions earlier in the day.

"We are very much disappointed. We had hoped the government would not lift sanctions until an interim government has been agreed upon," said Ally Lumkwana, the ANC's deputy chief representative in Tokyo.

Lumkwana said he disagreed with the Japanese Government's analysis that the dismantling of apartheid is "irreversible."

While major laws supporting apartheid have been abolished, there is no mechanism that ensures the white minority government is moving toward democracy, he said.

An interim government could be formed as early as December or the beginning of next year, he said.

Lumkwana said he doubted the removal of restrictions on iron ore, steel, and gold coins, as well as the lifting of a ban on investment would benefit the black majority, as explained by Tokyo, because there is still widespread discrimination in areas such as education and welfare.

Ghanian Ambassador to Tokyo James Amissah said he is concerned the South African Government would slow down the transition to democracy following Japan's removal of sanctions.

"The process (of dismantling apartheid) could be irreversible but one could drag feet and have it take 20 years, instead of five years," said Amissah, acting dean of the African diplomatic corps.

Japan is the first country to completely drop economic sanctions, although both the United States and the European Community (EC) have taken steps in that direction.

The EC gave the green light for new direct investment last December but an April agreement on lifting bans on imports of iron, steel, and gold coins has been held up due to a protest by the Danish parliament.

The U.S. lifted its economic embargo in July but many of its local governments have continued to maintain sanctions.

Amissah said the removal of sanctions shortly after Japan won wide support from African nations for a nonpermanent seat on the U.N. Security Council appeared to be a result of a foreign policy "based on expediency rather than on moral grounds."

Liberian Acting Ambassador Harry Tah Freeman, speaking in a personal capacity, said Japan appeared to be "using" Africa for international political gain.

"Now that Japan has been elected (to the U.N. Security Council) she thinks she doesn't need Africa anymore. Japan just wants to use Africa," he said.

Japan is Africa's second largest aid donor after France.

Philippine Labor Secretary Arrives in Tokyo

OW1710135491 Tokyo KYODO in English 1324 GMT 17 Oct 91

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 17 KYODO—Philippine Labor Secretary Ruben Torres arrived Thursday for talks with Japanese officials on improving working conditions in Japan for Filipinos and to investigate the death last month of a Filipina entertainer in Fukushima Prefecture.

During a weeklong stay in Japan, Torres will visit Fukushima and meet police and doctors who investigated the death of Maricris Sioson.

Maricris, 22, died at Hanawa Welfare Hospital in Fukushima on September 14.

Japanese authorities have said she died due to multiple organ failure caused by "fulminant hepatitis." However, the Philippine National Bureau of Investigation issued autopsy findings pointing to "traumatic head injuries" as the cause of death.

'Brief Meeting' With Nakayama

OW2110111391 Tokyo KYODO in English 1052 GMT 21 Oct 91

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 21 KYODO—Japan and the Philippines are in agreement that the death of a Filipino entertainer in Japan under questionable circumstances should not damage bilateral ties, Japanese Foreign Ministry officials said.

Officials said the convergence of views came in a brief meeting between Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama and Philippine Labor Secretary Ruben Torres, whose investigative delegation arrived in Japan on Thursday for a weeklong stay.

Torres was dispatched to Japan by President Corazon Aquino to look into the possibility of foul play in the September 14 death of Maricris Sioson, 22, who had been working as an entertainer in a club in Fukushima Prefecture.

A Japanese doctor ascribed her death to "multiple organ failure arising from "fulminant hepatitis," but an autopsy conducted later in the Philippines showed she died of "traumatic head injuries."

Officials said Nakayama promised Torres the Japanese Government will do whatever it can to facilitate the Philippine investigation.

Torres was quoted as saying he believed Japan is responding appropriately to his government's concerns.

The Philippine labor minister is scheduled to hold talks on Tuesday with Labor Minister Sadatoshi Ozato and Justice Minister Megumu Sato.

He was also expected to review with Japanese authorities measures for the protection of philippine workers in Japan, estimated by Manila at over 79,000, half of whom are employed illegally.

Officials said some members of Torres' delegation are now in Fukushima Prefecture to speak with local police and hospital officials.

Last Wednesday Aquino ordered a ban on the sending of entertainers to the prefecture in Honshu, Japan's largest main island.

Queen Beatrix of Netherlands Arrives on Visit

OW2010130191 Tokyo KYODO in English 1144 GMT 20 Oct 91

[Text] Kumamoto, Oct. 20 KYODO—Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands arrived at Kumamoto airport in southern Japan via Hong Kong on Sunday evening for a weeklong visit to Japan.

Kumamoto Gov. Joji Fukushima welcomed Queen Beatrix and her son Prince Willem-Alexander at the airport.

The queen and the prince headed for the famous resort of Aso, Kumamoto Prefecture, where they will rest at a hotel before flying to Tokyo on Tuesday as state guests.

On Tuesday, Queen Beatrix is scheduled to meet Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko in the morning, and Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu and Tokyo Gov. Shunichi Suzuki in the afternoon.

She will attend a luncheon hosted by Kaifu on Wednesday and is scheduled to visit the Diet on Thursday.

On Friday, the queen will visit Minami-Ashigara, Kanagawa Prefecture, which is a sister city of Tilburg, the Netherlands, and will also go to Tsukuba, Ibaraki prefecture.

Queen Beatrix and Prince Willem-Alexander are scheduled to leave Japan on Saturday.

Nakayama Apologizes for Mistreatment of POWS

OW2110104891 Tokyo KYODO in English 1025 GMT 21 Oct 91

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 21 KYODO—Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama on Monday apologized for Japan's ill treatment of Dutch civilians and soldiers taken prisoner in World War II, Foreign Ministry officials said.

Officials said Nakayama made the remarks in a luncheon meeting with Dutch Foreign Minister H. van den Broek, who is in Japan as part of the delegation of Queen Beatrix, who is making a historic state visit.

In an apology that officials said was identical to that of Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu during a visit to The Hague in July 1990, Nakayama was quoted as conveying Japan's "sincere contrition...for the unfortunate experience of those Dutch people."

Nakayama was alluding to Japan's mistreatment of the estimated 138,500 Dutch citizens taken prisoner after the Japanese Imperial Army invaded the Dutch East Indies Colony, now Indonesia, in December 1941.

The Netherlands says that out of 42,233 soldiers and 96,300 civilians taken prisoner by the Japanese, 8,200 soldiers and 13,120 civilians died during harsh incarceration and forced labor.

Among the dead were 728 of the 8,000 POWs sent to labor camps in Japan.

Officials said van den Broek told Nakayama that in order for the two countries to heal the wounds that World War II inflicted on their relationship, they must look to the future on the basis of a solid understanding of the past.

Officials said van den Broek said there are currently 16 organizations of Dutch nationals who suffered cruelty at the hands of the Japanese during World War II, some of which have sent delegations to Japan on the occasion of the queen's visit claiming Japan has not paid adequate compensation or shown sufficient remorse.

Van den Broek said that a perceived lack of attention in the Netherlands to those who suffered in the Far East has led to the issue's recent prominence on the Dutch political scene.

He explained that until recently, public attention was focused largely on the victims of Nazism.

Van den Broek said the Dutch Government shares Japan's view that the question of war reparations has already been settled in a legal sense by the 1951 San Francisco Peace Treaty.

But he asked for Japan's understanding of the fact that there is, at least on an emotional level, a problem still existing between the two countries.

The Dutch foreign minister said pressure from parliament has prompted the government to arrange for a group of international experts to examine the legality of claims for more reparations from Japan.

The experts are to come to a conclusion on the issue in several week's time, he added.

Under the San Francisco Peace Treaty and the 1965 Stikker-Yoshida Protocol, Japan paid a total of 49 million guilders to the internees through the Dutch Government.

The Dutch queen was originally scheduled to pay a state visit to Japan in the autumn of 1987, but the plan was scrapped by the Netherlands after a surge of public resentment against Japan for its acts during World War II.

The bitter sentiments kept all but the Dutch foreign minister away from Emperor Hirohito's funeral in March 1989.

Prince Willem Alexander, the queen's son and designated successor, represented the Netherlands at Emperor Akihito's enthronement ceremony last November.

Officials said van den Broek told Nakayama he did not expect the dark period in the two countries' relations would cast a shadow over the queen's current visit.

Ex-Im Bank Provides Trinidad, Venezuela Loans

OW2110115391 Tokyo KYODO in English 1110 GMT 21 Oct 91

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 21 KYODO—The Export-Import [Ex-Im] Bank of Japan said Monday it will provide untied loans to the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, and to Venezuela-based Corporacion Andina de Fomento (CAF).

The bank will advance the yen equivalent of a maximum 40 million dollars in a cofinancing with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).

The fund will be used to finance the implementation of Trinidad and Tobago's secondary oil recovery project and refinery modernization project. The fund is intended to contribute to the modernization and rationalization of its petroleum industry.

The projects are expected to boost the country's foreign exchange earnings capacity by 200 million dollars a year, through enhanced petroleum production capacity, the bank said.

Meanwhile, the bank also announced it will present CAF, a regional development financial institution for the Andean region headquartered in Caracas, a 5 billion yen untied direct loan.

CAF will relend the funds to implement eligible projects, which are expected to contribute to the economic development of CAF member countries—Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Venezuela.

Under untied direct loans, procurement of goods and services is not limited to Japan.

KDD To Join U.S.-Europe Fiber Optic Projects

OW1710132891 Tokyo KYODO in English 1237 GMT 17 Oct 91

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 17 KYODO—Japan's overseas communications giant, KDD, on Thursday applied to the Posts and Telecommunications Ministry for approval of its plan to sign two U.S.-Europe undersea fiber optic telephone cables construction and maintenance agreements.

The two cables are the Transatlantic Telephone Cable No. 10 and No. 11 (TAT-10 and TAT-11).

TAT-10, 7,700 kilometers long, will link the U.S. with Germany and the Netherlands and is scheduled to go into operation in August 1992.

TAT-11, 6,900 kilometers long, will connect the U.S. with Britain and France and is due to go into use in August 1993.

TAT-10 is estimated to cost 300 million dollars, of which 1.45 percent will be borne by KDD. The construction cost of TAT-11 is put at 280 million dollars, of which 0.57 percent will be paid by KDD.

Representatives of 36 telecommunications companies from 25 countries, including American Telephone and Telegraph Co. (AT and T), will sign the TAT-10 construction and maintenance agreement in Bremen, Germany, on October 29, and 27 companies from 17 countries the TAT-11 agreement.

Both TAT-10 and TAT-11 cables will carry a total of 22,680 circuits each.

Mission Returns From Recovering POW Remains

OW2110121591 Tokyo KYODO in English 0916 GMT 21 Oct 91

[Text] Niigata, Oct. 21 KYODO—A Japanese Government mission returned home Monday from a Soviet Far East town, where they gathered the remains of 56 Japanese prisoners of war (POWs) who died in a Siberian labor camp after World War II.

The 10-member mission, led by Matsuo Murase, a division chief in the Health and Welfare Ministry's War Victims' Relief Bureau, arrived at Niigata Airport from Chita Province aboard an Aeroflot plane to wrap up the group's 15-day excavation work.

The mission recovered the remains at a burial ground in Drovyanaya, Chita Province, where a concentration camp for Japanese POWs was located.

About 500 Japanese, including soldiers and other military personnel, were detained in the camp from September 1945, and 56 died while engaged in forced labor such as deforestation and road repair work.

The team will hand over the remains to the ministry at a war cemetery in Chidorigafuchi, Tokyo, on Tuesday.

The remains of the 10 identified bodies will be handed over to the families within a month, ministry officials said.

The remains of the other 46 have not been identified. The ministry said it plans to continue investigating to identify as many as possible and then deliver the remains to the families.

Envoys to Kenya, Turkey, Bahrain Appointed

OW1810042991 Tokyo KYODO in English 0353 GMT 18 Oct 91

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 18 KYODO—The Japanese Government on Friday announced the appointment of four new ambassadors to Kenya, Turkey, Bahrain, and Papua New Guinea.

Ginko Sato, 57, assistant minister for international labor affairs at the Labor Ministry, was named ambassador to Kenya, succeeding Naohiro Kumagai, the Foreign Ministry said.

Sato, who entered the Labor Ministry in 1958 after graduating from the University of Tokyo, is the fourth woman to serve as a Japanese envoy.

Yoichi Yamaguchi, 54, director at the Metal Mining Agency of Japan, was appointed ambassador to Turkey, replacing Takashi Sengoku.

Yamaguchi became a career diplomat in 1960 and has served as ambassador to Madagascar.

Teruo Kijima, 52, consul general in Berlin, was assigned to the ambassadorial post in Bahrain, replacing Toshiro Ogushi.

Kijima joined the Foreign Ministry in 1962 and has served as councilor at the ministry's United Nations Bureau.

Tadashi Masui,57, consul general in Toronto, was named ambassador to Papua New Guinea, replacing Yasuo Noguchi.

Masui entered the Foreign Ministry in 1954 and has also served as consul general in Brisbane, Australia.

LDP Candidate Miyazawa Outlines Policies

OW2110144491 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0503 GMT 21 Oct 91

[Speech by Kiichi Miyazawa, Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] presidential candidate, at LDP headquarters in Tokyo—live]

[Text] I am Kiichi Miyazwa introduced by the chairman just now. I request your favor. [applause]

It is my heartfelt honor to be able to take part in the presidential election of the Liberal Democratic Party, which glitters with tradition, on the recommendation of my comrades. I express my deep thanks to you for providing me with an opportunity to have my views heard.

Prime Minister and President Kaifu assumed his post when our party faced an unprecedented crisis but he has successfully saved the situation in a little more than two years. Presently, our party is regaining the trust of the people and making a restart toward a new road. I would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt respect and thanks to Prime Minister and President Kaifu, who is completing his term of office in a refreshing manner. [applause]

Regarding the political reform to which President Kaifu devoted all his energies, I think I must inherit his intentions and address it sincerely. How can we make politics less expensive and how should we make the flow of money transparent? The government advanced proposals to the last Diet session on these questions as well as on the question of the electoral district system. I think that we should do our best to make it possible to draw a concrete conclusion in roughly one year through consultations with the opposition parties, using those proposals as the starting point or a basis for discussion. I think that this is not an easy job but, now that we are beginning to fathom the intentions of the Supreme Court, I think that it is not a question that should be left to take its own course for an indefinite time. [applause]

The world today is in the midst of convulsions. The developments, I believe, stand comparison with the French Revolution or the American Independence movement—those monumental events that take place once in several centuries. However, the transition of the developments still does not allow prediction. The world is referring to this age as a post-cold war era. The phrase post-cold war era means that something has ended, but it does not offer any suggestion as to what will begin.

The situation is still fluid, I believe. Since what is called foresight is a political task however, I would dare regard the age unfolding from now as an era for building a new peaceful order in the world. There may be criticisms that this is too optimistic a view. Taking a look at the latest agreement reached between the United States and the Soviet Union on totally abolishing tactical nuclear arms, however, I think that the stream of the developments, as a matter of fact, is moving far faster than what we think. It is beyond any doubt that in the course of building this new peaceful order in the world, the role of the United Nations will become weightier as the time passes.

In the recent Gulf war we rendered so-called cooperation to the United Nations including financial support. In view of our national strength, it is clear that we should continue providing substantial financial support in the future. At the same time, we should do as much as we can in terms of personnel contributions as well. This is the historical meaning of the so-called PKO [peacekeeping operations] Bill, which was deliberated at the last Diet session. I take it in this context and because of that reason I think that we must enact this bill as quickly as possible, thus helping to realize Japan's cooperation with the United Nations.

In conducting our foreign policy in the days ahead under this perception or prospect, we need strong solidarity with Southeast Asia more than anything else. Friendship between Japan and the Untied States is the basic framework for our foreign policy. We also need cooperative relations with the EC. Under such cooperative relations, Japan as the world's No. 2 economic power should make international contributions.

Fortunately, U.S. President Bush is scheduled to visit Japan in November. This happens to be the 50th anniversary of Pearl Harbor, but I think it will be quite meaningful for the top leaders of the two countries to reach agreement on what Japan and the United States, which share the same values, will do to further deepen their friendship and contribute to the world in partnership and to declare this to the world in a Tokyo manifesto or something like that. [applause]

I think that only after gaining such an outlook towards the future can the commemoration of the past 50 years be meaningful. What is generating these factors of instability in the building of the new world order is, of course, the trends in the Soviet Union. For instance, it is unclear what relations the union and the republics will have in the future. To date, there has been a move to create a so-called Economic Community comprised of eight republics. However, the Ukraine, for example, has not joined it. The situation remains fluid as to what the position of the union will occupy and what authority it will have in that event.

In addition to this, I think it will be difficult to tell, unless we keep watching a few more years, if the efforts being made by many republics, especially the Russian Republic, will be really fruitful. The Berlin Wall was toppled two years ago in November. Worthy of a television age, the people of the East watch TV and see that the so-called market economy helps raise living standards and makes a livelihood convenient and clean. We should do the same. A planned economy is no good. We must adopt a market economy. As it is now a TV age, this conviction spread in no time, leading to those unexpected developments. The consumer is king in our market economy countries. However, in reality, consumers are kings because the producers or the businesses face severe competition. They drop out of the ranks if they slacken their efforts even a little. By only Watching television, the people of the East may want to believe that they are consumers and therefore, king. However, behind the TV is severe cut-throat competition. Because there is a delicate mechanism, which is also called God's invisible hand, those pictures are shown on the surface. I am afraid that perhaps the East German people realize this for themselves more acutely than anyone else now.

If a job that can be performed by one person is carried out by 30 people, there will be no unemployment; but neither can they win in a competition. This means that if only one person carries out the job, the remaining 29 will have to lose jobs. Will our friends in the Russian Republic really be able to stand up to this reality? Can they really build a market economic country? I think we will have to watch for a considerably long time to determine if they can or not. However, the fact that the 15 republics, which were called the Soviet Union, want to become peaceful countries that do not seek war and want to switch over to a market economy is indeed glad tidings to us and the rest of the world. I think that we should not spare our help to that end.

The government has already decided on so-called emergency humanitarian aid within the framework of $2.5 billion. This includes technological aid to some enterprises in the oil resources, fisheries development and lumber industrial sectors. The biggest aid to come is, needless to say, financial aid. But I think that, under the recent decision adopted by the IMF, Soviet and Japanese experts will meet in Moscow in late October and many times from now to draw up blueprints and medium and long-range plans. Decisions will be made on when and what kind of money should be provided under those plans. I think that these procedures should be carried out. In any case, I think it is clear that this will require tremendous aid over a long period of time. A vast sum of money will be needed over a long period of time, for example, for a ruble exchange stabilization fund; for commodity loans to make consumers feel at ease because a vast quantity of goods are needed when it is time to really shift over to a market economy; or for maintaining the infrastructure for the future. And yet, it is clear that Japan has to play a large role in this. Therefore, I think we need to make preparations for that eventuality starting now. This aid of ours to the Soviet Union is based on our friendship and good will. Therefore, I think there is ample reason for us to believe that the Soviets will understand our feelings. While doing so, a peace treaty should also be considered. I believe that the so-called military significance of the four northern islands is not the same now as it was before. Above all, what I am thinking of right now is to let the people residing on those islands know that what is going to happen to them henceforth will be a very bright thing to them—to improve their living standards. Besides, we will do the best we can to grant their wishes. I want to let the inhabitants of those islands know our frame of our mind and remove their anxieties.

Since this is addressed to another country, there may be a limit to diplomatic efforts. However, it is possible to ask that the private sector make efforts to that end and, if visa-free trips are made possible, those opportunities will be made available spontaneously. In this connection, I think that it is an urgent task to let the inhabitants of those islands feel at ease about their future.

Now, I would like to discuss some domestic issues. The so-called bubble phenomena encompassing securities and land are, so to speak, strains created by the free economy. A majority of the people think that they belong to the middle of the middle class. As many as 90 percent of the people think so. If honest people in our society feel that they have been left behind, it is feared that social solidarity or stability will be torn apart. I am concerned about these phenomena. Those who work earnestly should be rewarded. Our national administration has for a long time called for measures for building up a rich country with a strong army and has maintained that we cannot survive without exporting. It was exactly so but it no longer holds true today. Nevertheless, the administration takes sides with the industry and the producers. This certainly produced the desired effect, but those who should be valued most today are the consumers and the general investors. The administration knows this but finds it very difficult to change its posture. I think that politics should take the lead in changing this posture.

For some years now we have been talking about building a so-called livelihood power [seikatsu taikoku]. Regrettably, the foreigners' criticism—although you Japanese torment us by exporting so much, aren't you people living in rabbit hutches?—hits the mark. Things have improved quite a bit, but there was no time when the so-called enrichment of the social overhead capital was called for in both the urban and local communities as much as it is now. Because of this we are undergoing hardships traveling between our native places and Tokyo. Therefore, we want to build a so-called livelihood power replete with suitable living conditions while we have this much strength before our society really ages. This has become a public pledge to the outside world, too. I think that we should operate our finances and economy toward that end.

Administrative reform has been talked about for a long time. Much has been said about decentralization, the elimination of unipolarity, a transfer from the government to the private sector, and deregulation. However, I find it imperative to say that we still have a long way to go. In this connection, I think that we must continue our efforts for administrative reform.

As my time is limited, I have dwelled on only some issues but I want to make appeals to the people on those policy issues in the forthcoming election. I also want to increase the people's trust in our party through this open election and, when the election is over, no matter what the result may be, I intend to do everything in my power to cope with this difficult situation through the help of the whole party. I ask for your favors and support. Thank you. [applause]

Komeito Calls for Review of Security Policies

OW2010061991 Tokyo KYODO in English 0609 GMT 20 Oct 91

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 20 KYODO—Komeito, the second-largest opposition party, Sunday called for a review of Japan's securities policies in accordance with a new international order.

In its draft of an action program and the party's important policy lines announced the same day, Komeito also declared the constitutionality of the Self-Defense Forces (SDF) and asked for the more efficiency and reductions in the armed forces.

Komeito is due to convene the party convention October 28 to discuss the draft.

It is the first time for the second-ranked opposition to stipulate the SDF's constitutionality in policy papers submitted to the party convention although the party has revealed its stance to recognize the SDF as constitutional through a party chairman's view.

The action program says the new world order would be established with the United Nations playing a key role in creating a new peace order and an universal collective security system.

The program stressed the need for Japan to review the nation's security system and policies in view of the new international order.

As part of concrete measures to review the security system, the party calls for strengthening of the civilian control on the SDF and the study of the Japan-U.S. security arrangements.

The party endorses the possible SDF's participation in the U.N. peacekeeping operations (PKO), saying the overseas sending of the SDF personnel is permissible under the constitution.

Mongolia

Ochirbat on Upcoming Trip to South Korea

SK2010012191 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 20 Oct 91 pp 1, 2

[Interview with Mongolian President Punsalmaagiyn Ochirbat by Peter Hyon, free-lance journalist and advisor to Korean Air, at the presidential mansion in Ulaanbaatar—date not given]

[Text] President Punsalmaagiyn Ochirbat of Mongolia who is scheduled to make an official visit to Korea on Oct. 22 hopes that his trip will help "define and formulate the principles" of bilateral relations in all spheres.

In a recent exclusive interview at the presidential mansion in Ulaanbaator, President Ochirbat expressed a strong conviction in the success of the current efforts of his country and people to achieve democratization of society and renovation of economy and called for cooperations from countries in the region, including Korea, in these endeavors.

He stressed that Korea and Mongolia, which have a close ethnic relation, share "innumerable areas of active cooperation," ranging from official, business and cultural levels to human-to-human contacts.

The following is the full text of the interview:

Question: What do you hope to achieve on your visit to Korea?

Answer: I hope to define and formulate the principles of bilateral relations in all spheres: political, diplomatic, economic, cultural, scientific and technological, etc., at the top level.

Q: When you became the president of Mongolia in September 1990, you called for transition to a market economy and, citing the examples of economic growth rates of Korea, Hong Kong, and Singapore, said that Mongolia, too, could become an Asian tiger. How do you plan to accomplish this difficult task?

A: Mongolia is one of the countries which has rather good prospects and potentials for developing its economy such as rich natural resources and highly educated people. However, because of the wrong (Communist) economic system and mismanagement we failed to make use of our vast possibilities. Today we are democratizing the society and renovating the economy—the total infrastructure. This includes the privitization of state properties, liberalization of prices, technological retooling, institutional developments and also the development of free trade with the hard currency area. If we succeed in tackling all these tasks, and we are convinced that we can, Mongolia can easily reach a high level of growth and become a "tiger."

Q: Don't you think such pressing issues as Mongolia's debt of 8.2 billion rubles to the Soviet Union will hamper your ambitious development plans.?

A: Yes, we have a huge debt to the Soviet Union. But it is not problem which could hamper the development of cooperation between Mongolia and other countries. The governments of the Mongolian People's Republic and the Soviet Union agree that the debt problem can be fully resolved by paying it under easy terms. It is a separate issue and will be dealt with in its own specific way. As for the tasks of developing our country's fundamental infrastructure and switching to a market economy, we can deal with these problems by mobilizing our efforts and through international cooperation.

Q: Having lived under a rigid Soviet-style rule for the past 70 years, how do the Mongolian people react to your newly instituted democratization process?

A: Democracy is a thing which meets everyone's interests. For this reason, the process of democratization is going in a fairly smooth way. One small problem is that our people after having lived many years under an authoritarian rule tend to perceive democracy as anarchy and a lack of discipline rather than a conscientious recognition and fulfillment of rights and duties.

Q: In many of your policy statements, you mention Mongolia's need for "a controlled market economy." Why do you feel such a need?

A: I believe the state must regulate our economic activities, particularly at this transitional stage when private businesses are being set up, denationalization is going on, prices are being liberalized, etc. Remembering the experiences of living under a rigid "command system" some people fear that the "state control" is no different from the past centralized planning and management system. But I am confident that after some time they will understand that what the government means is a control at very high "macro" level. Macroeconomics is a concept our people do not know for the time being. Q: As a part of the country's democratization process, Mongolia is now witnessing the re-birth of Buddhism. Is the government doing anything to support this religious revival?

A: We believe in the separation of state and religion. The state and religion carry out their activities independently. The reconstruction of hundreds of temples, and monasteries and the training of thousands of lamas are conducted by the Buddhist authorities themselves and through donations from the believers. But the state subsidizes the preservation of Buddhist art treasures.

Q: How do you view the future of Mongol-Korean relations?

A: I see them expanding to the benefit and profit of both sides in every sphere from the official, business, cultural and other levels down to human-to-human contacts.

North Korea

South Delegation to Talks Crosses Panmunjom

SK2210034291 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0310 GMT 22 Oct 91

[Text] The South side's delegation, which will participate in the fourth round of the North-South high-level talks, came over to our side's area through Panmunjom at 0830 this morning. Delegates of the South side's delegation with Chong Won-sik as chief delegate, entourage members, and reporters came over to the North side.

Children gave bouquets to delegates at Tongilgak.

Members of our side's delegation to the North-South high-level talks—Kim Kwang-chin, general of the Korean People's Army [KPA]; An Pyong-su, vice chairman of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland [CPRF]; Paek Nam-chun, director of the CPRF secretariat; Kim Chong-u, vice minister of the Ministry of External Economic Affairs; Choe U-chin, roving ambassador of foreign affairs; and Kim Yong-chol, KPA major general—greeted the South side's delegation.

Arrives in Pyongyang; Makes Statement

SK2210102791 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1010 GMT 22 Oct 91

[Text] Pyongyang October 22 (KCNA)—The South side's delegation and its entourage arrived here 12:30 by train to participate in the fourth round of the inter-Korean high-level talks.

Premier of the DPRK Administration Council Yon Hyong-muk, head of the North side's delegation, met the members of the South side's delegation headed by Chong Won-sik at the Paekhwawon Guesthouse where the South side's delegation would stay.

At the guesthouse the spokesman of the South side's delegation published a statement upon arrival in Pyongyang.

Expressing thanks to the Pyongyang citizens and compatriots in the North for their greeting the South side's delegation, he urged all the 70 million compatriots of the North and the South to unite with each other and put together their strength and wisdom to pave the way for national reunification.

Three rounds of inter-Korean high-level talks have been held since the first round in early September 1990.

Both sides agreed upon and adopted the single-item agenda "on removing the political and military confrontation and realising many-sided cooperation and exchange between the North and the South."

Although the South Korean authorities had agreed to the agenda and procedural matters, they made the three rounds of inter-Korean high-level talks fruitless by coming out from the first round with the separatist draft of "basic agreement on the improvement of North-South relations" which is an imitation of the "basic relations agreement" signed by East and West Germany in the early 1970s to legitimate "two states".

Yon Hyong-muk Hosts Banquet

SK2210143691 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1300 GMT 22 Oct 91

[Text] Yon Hyong-muk, premier of the DPRK State Administration Council, arranged a banquet this evening at Mongnangwan for the South side's delegation to the fourth round of North-South high-level talks. Invited to it were members of the South side's delegation, including its senior member Chong Won-sik, entourage members, and reporters.

Members of the North side's delegation to the North-South high-level talks attended the banquet. Also attending the banquet were Yi Cha-pang, chairman of the State Science and Technology Committee; Yun Ki-chong, minister of finance; Choe Ki-yong, chairman of the Education Committee; Yi Chang-yol, minister of public health; Chong Mun-san, director of the State Administration Secretariat; Kim Yong-ho, vice chairman of the Korean Social Democratic Party Central Committee; Han Yong-su, vice chairman of Chondoist Chongu Party Central Committee; and Yi Song-ho, acting chairman of the DPRK Red Cross Society Central Committee.

Premier Yon Hyong-muk spoke at the banquet. After first welcoming the members of the South side's delegation who are visiting our historic Pyongyang to attend the fourth round of the North-South high-level talks, he said that our fellow countrymen are a people of a single origin who have inherited one blood vessel while living on the same land since ancient times. He said that they were brethren yesterday and are still brethren today and that it is a joy for them to meet each other.

Premier Yon Hyong-muk said that each and every one of our people, cherishing in each heart faith in the great chuche idea by which the nation can live a dignified life as a nation, is now leading a rewarding, free, and equal political life, even an affluent material life, and a sound and rich spiritual and cultural life under our own style of socialism centered on the popular masses, uniting around the party and leader as one. He said that our people, while engaged in a vigorous struggle to realize national reunification, which they assume as the supreme task, call a pavilion and bridge built by them "Tongilgak" and "Tongil Bridge" and call a street built along a large dwelling complex "Tongil Street."

Saying that the passion for national reunification is soaring extraordinarily high even in South Korea and overseas, Premier Yon Hyong-muk stressed that the national reunification movement is now being pushed as a great nationwide march that no force on earth can stop or reverse. He said that such an historic stream calls on the two sides' delegates, who bear an important mission to provide peaceful preconditions for national reunification, to open their eyes anew. They are expected to bring about good results by advancing our talks more rapidly than ever.

Saying that the delegates of the two sides should advance the talks quickly by quickening their pace and speeding up, thereby making up for the loss of one year and producing a good gift for the nation, Premier Yon Hyong-muk expressed his hope that the South side's delegates will remove their unfavorable image of having run around in circles in the past rounds of talks and join in the effort to make the talks fruitful and give joy to all the fellow countrymen.

The senior member of the South side spoke next. He expressed his gratitude for the welcome that the South side's delegation members received with consanguineous affection and for having such a meaningful banquet arranged.

Further on Banquet Speeches

SK2210152991 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1513 GMT 22 Oct 91

[Text] Pyongyang October 22 (KCNA)—Yon Hyong-muk, premier of the DPRK Administration Council, arranged a party at the Mokran House this evening for the South side's delegation to the fourth round of inter-Korean high-level talks.

Invited to the party were the members of the South side's delegation headed by Chong Won-sik, support personnel and reporters.

The members of the North side's delegation and senior officials of commissions and ministries of the Administration Council and political parties were present at the party.

Yon Hyong-muk made a speech at the party.

The fervour for national reunification is growing stronger not only among our people but also in South Korea and abroad, he said, adding that the movement for national reunification is waged as a grand nationwide march which is irresistible and irrevocable.

This trend of history, he continued, urges the delegates of the two sides with a heavy mission of creating a peaceful precondition for national reunification to renew their determination and promote our talks more rapidly than ever before to bear a good fruit.

The delegates of the two sides must hasten their steps and accelerate the tempo to promote the talks rapidly and make a good agreement so as to make up for the lost one year and produce an excellent gift for the nation, he said, expressing the hope that the delegates of the South side would join in the efforts to efface the unfavourable image about the previous fruitless talks and make the talks fruitful and successful to the delight of the entire nation.

The chief delegate of the South side spoke next.

He expressed thanks for having greeted his delegation with compatriotic feelings and arranged the significant party.

South's 'Basic Agreement' for Talks Condemned

SK2110105791 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1039 GMT 21 Oct 91

["'Basic Agreement'" for Freezing 'Two Koreas'"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang October 21 (KCNA)—The South Korean authorities announced that they would bring forward the "basic agreement for improvement of North-South relations" again at the fourth round of inter-Korean high-level talks. NODONG SINMUN today condemns this as an intolerable challenge and unpardonable crime against the entire fellow countrymen who hope for a good result of the upcoming talks with a desire for reunification.

The paper says in a signed article titled "'Basic Agreement' for Freezing 'Two Koreas'":

The "basic agreement" proposed by the South Korean authorities is an imitation of the "basic relations treaty" signed by Eastern and Western Germany in the early 1970s to legitimate "two states." Its keynote is "recognition of the systems" and "establishment of permanent liaison missions."

We do not deny that there exist two different systems in the North and the South and that the country is divided. Why do they raise the problem which is self-evident to anyone and insist on stamping the seals confirming the division at the talks as if it were a new issue? They are motivated by a criminal aim to freeze and legitimate the division of the country through "agreement" between the North and the South.

As we have consistently maintained, the North-South relations must be improved and, to this end, the problem of removing the political and military confrontation between the North and the South must be solved first of all. If the North and the South adopt a nonaggression declaration, reconcile themselves and cooperate with each other, the North-South relations will surely be improved and a favourable phase for peace and reunification be created. It is a betrayal to the nation, in the true sense of the word, to insist on adopting the "basic agreement" and legitimating the division, far from adopting a nonaggression declaration, removing the political and military confrontation and creating the basic conditions for a durable peace and reunification of the country.

The South Korean authorities came out with a "draft basic agreement on the improvement of North-South relations" at the first round of talks and have since laid obstacles to progress in the talks by opposing the discussion of the basic problem of removing the political and military confrontation to it. At the third round of talks, they even said they would not discuss other matters if the "basic agreement" was not adopted first.

This is a patent proof that the South Korean authorities have no intention of removing the political and military confrontation, fundamentally improving the North-South relations and reunifying the country.

Nowadays the South Korean authorities talk as if the admission of the North and the South to the United Nations became a "precondition" for discussing and concluding the "basic agreement" at the upcoming talks. This is a ridiculous argument.

Now that the North and the South have joined the United Nations separately, they must work more actively to prevent a permanent division of the country and reunify it.

The South Korean authorities must see clearly the trend of the times, stop the criminal act of laying obstacles to the talks with the separatist document like the "basic agreement" and take a sincere position and attitude at the discussion of the fundamental problems for peace and reunification of the country.

Commentary Urges South Sincerity in Talks

SK2210045891 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0048 GMT 22 Oct 91

[NODONG SINMUN 22 October commentary: "Fellow Countrymen's Expectations for North-South High-Level Talks"]

[Text] The North-South high-level talks, which were discontinued after three rounds, are being resumed.

As is widely known, after the third round of talks in December last year, the North-South high-level talks were discontinued since the South Korean authorities, together with the United States, staged the Team Spirit nuclear war exercise, which was aimed at invading us, their partner of dialogue. Even after that time, they regarded us with hostility and continued committing acts to spoil the atmosphere of dialogue, including repression of patriotic reunification forces. Thus, the talks have not been resumed to date.

The fourth round of North-South high-level talks were scheduled to be held in August. However, cholera rapidly spread in South Korea, and as the result of this, the talks were postponed according to an agreement between the two sides.

The resumption of talks even after 10 months is fortunate. Fellow countrymen's expectations for the North-South high-level talks are great.

As was shown in the pan-national rally held in Panmunjom, Seoul, and Tokyo on the occasion of the 15 August liberation anniversary, and in various festivals for reunification, the unanimous aspiration of our fellow countrymen, who are suffering the pains of division, is national reunification. They want to glorify 1995 as the first year of national reunification.

The much-awaited North-South high-level talks should result in affirmative agreements beneficial to expediting peace and the reunification of the nation in compliance with the aspiriation of the fellow countrymen. If this situation is realized, the people's desire for reunification will be further enhanced and the day of national reunification will be expedited.

The focal point of expectations of the fellow countrymen who are watching the North-South high-level talks is that dialogue in these talks should turn into dialogue for reunification and dialogue for practically resolving such essential problems as removing political and military confrontation between the North and the South.

If the North and the South want to live separately forever instead of striving to put an end to the disgraceful history of division which has persisted for nearly half a century contrary to our people's will, dialogue is not necessary. If they only continue arguing over secondary questions instead of being able to eliminate stumbling block laid on the road to reunification, their dialogue, even if it is held, is, in actuality, of no significance.

The fourth round of the North-South high-level talks should deservedly achieve agreements beneficial to resolving the issue of peace and reunification of the nation in conformity with the expectations and aspiration of the people, and in particular, should solve such basic questions as adoption of a nonaggression declaration between the North and the South. Thus, they should seek the methods for the North and the South to improve their mutual relations and to expedite resolving the reunification issue amid an atmosphere of reconciliation and trust.

Although the North-South high-level talks draw near, there are still some factors causing the people's concern about the future of the dialogue.

The South side pushed the North-South high-level talks into suspension by destroying the atmosphere of dialogue with such a nuclear attack exercise for northward invasion as the Team Spirit joint military exercise. However, instead of reflecting on its erroneous act, the South side slandered us by talking about fictitious nuclear development in the North, threat of attack from the North, and so forth. The South side is scheming to continuously keep the U.S. troops and nuclear weapons in South Korea, and unhesitatingly made violent remarks on war and that it will choose military action against us.

Despite our repeated demands, the South side has not released but still keeps in jail and persecutes figures who visited the North including Rev. Mun Ik-hwan, student Yim Su-kyong and Father Mun Kyu- hyon, and patriotic reunification figures. Besides, the South side is awaiting with warrants for students Pak Song-hui and Song Yong-sung, delegates of the National Council for University Student Representatives [Chondaehyop] of South Korea who came to Pyongyang to realize the great reunification festival of youths and students and who participated in the Paektu-Halla grand march for promotion of national reunification and in the second pan-national rally, claiming that it will arrest them upon their return on charges of violating the National Security Law.

The South side also not only blocked the pan-national rally for 1991 and the great gala of youth and students for reunification, which were scheduled to be held in Seoul on the occasion of the anniversary of 15 August national liberation this year, from becoming a common gala of the nation, but also brutally suppressed all the galas held by the patriotic reunification forces within South Korea.

Despite their original approval of Konguk University students' proposal to visit North Korea and to contact North Korean students the South Korean authorities, when an agreement was reached between students from the Korean Language and Literature Department of Kim Il-song University and the Korean Language and Literature Department of Konguk University on mutual exchange for academic researches, took the unjust act of blocking Konguk University students from visiting the

North on the pretext that they attempted to have reunification debates with North Korean students.

We cannot find the will for reunification that the nation ardently desires in the acts of the persons in authority of South Korea who regard the patriotic reunification forces as heretics and who incriminate even the slightest moves for reunification.

Even in the recent contact between working-level delegates of the two sides held to discuss preparations for the fourth round of North-South high-level talks, the South side proposed that the talks adopt a basic agreement, a splittist accord, the content of which includes the recognition of the political systems of the two sides and the exchange of permanent missions, despite the fact that in the North-South high-level talks we have already advanced a reasonable proposal for adopting a declaration of nonaggression and an agreement on North-South reconciliation, cooperation, and exchange.

Since the North and the South entered the United Nations separately, the South Korean authorities have more tenaciously tried to adopt their basic agreement in the North-South high level talks and, thus, to legalize the two Koreas by mutual agreement. All this is aimed at perpetuating division, not at opening a breakthough for solving the question of peace and reunification by reaching an agreement on such an important issue as adopting a declaration of nonaggression. It also proceeds from an impure attempt to utilize the sacred dialogue site as a site to pave the road for unification through absorption.

Our compatriots who are now watching the talks demand that the South side get rid of its splittist stand and respond to North-South dialogue with a sincere attitude for reunification. Our people in the North and the South stresss that the South side should renounce its wrong habit of advancing unjust proposals, adhering to them, and, thus, making the talks fruitless and should show sincerity in discussing the issues.

Our stand to reach an outstanding agreement which can practically contribute to achieving peace and reunification in the current talks and, thus, to give joy and satisfaction to our compatriots who are closely watching the talks is firm and invariable. The future prospects of the talks depend entirely on the South side's attitude.

If the South side tries to utilize the current talks as a stage to legalize division and as a site to pave the road for realizing its wild ambition for unification through absorption, it will not be able to escape the rejection and condemnation of all the fellow countrymen in the North, in the South, and overseas who ardently desire national reunification.

Talks Should Stress Reunification Question

SK2210051991 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0450 GMT 22 Oct 91

["Fourth North-South High-Level Talks Must Provide Guarantee for Quickening Settlement of Reunification Question"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang October 22 (KCNA)—The fourth North-South high-level talks in Pyongyang must reach an agreement favourable to the solution of the question of peace and reunification of the country in conformity with the expectation and desire of the nation and solve such basic questions as the adoption of North-South nonaggression declaration so that both sides may improve bilateral relations in an atmosphere of reconciliation and trust and quicken the settlement of the reunification question, says a NODONG SINMUN analyst today. The main point of the expectation of the fellow countrymen who are watching the high-level talks is that it should be a reunification-oriented dialogue which practically resolves the essential questions such as the removal of the political and military confrontation between the North and the South, the news analyst notes, and stresses:

With the talks just at hand, truth to tell, the situation makes us worry over its prospect.

At the working-level contact for the preparation of the fourth talks, the South side objected the North side's reasonable proposal to adopt a "North-South nonaggression declaration" and "agreement on reconciliation, cooperation and exchange between the North and the South" at the talks and insisted on the adoption of a divisive "basic agreement". Since the North and the South joined the United Nations separately, the South Korean authorities have schemed more persistently to legalize "two Koreas" on the basis of an agreement between the sides by getting the "basic agreement" adopted at the talks.

All these acts of the South side are not aimed at solving such crucial matters as the adoption of a nonaggression declaration and make a breakthrough in settling the questions of peace and reunification but are designed to perpetuate the division and motivated by a sinister intention to abuse the sacred negotiating table to pave the way of "reunification by absorption".

The fellow countrymen following the talks demand that the South side, before it is too late, discard the divisive stand and respond to dialogue with a sincere position for reunification.

The people in the North and the South also demand that the South side part with such bad habit of balking the progress of the talks with unreasonable assertions, and fully show its sincerity in the discussion of the matters.

Unshakable is our stand to give joy and satisfaction to the fellow countrymen who are watching the talks by reaching a good agreement substantially conducive to peace and reunification.

The prospect of the talks wholly depends on the South side's attitude.

Article Cites Kim Il-song on Reunification

SK2210103291 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0959 GMT 22 Oct 91

["The Concord and Unity of the Whole Nation Precisely Means National Reunification"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang October 22 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today carries a signed article headlined "The Concord and Unity of the Whole Nation Precisely Means National Reunification."

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, in his historical work "Let Us Achieve the National Unity of Our Nation," clearly expounded the correlations between national reunification and great national unity, says the article.

It quotes the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song as teaching:

"The concord and unity of the whole nation precisely means national reunification we want."

He said that to achieve the great unity of the whole nation aspiring after reunification is the basic prerequisite to the independent and peaceful reunification of the country and its essential content, the article notes, and goes on:

The essence of our national reunification question is to rejoin the artificially severed blood vessels of the nation, achieve national concord and realize the independence of the nation throughout the country. This means that achieving the concord and unity of the whole nation is to create the basic prerequisite to national reunification and it means reunification itself.

If the entire people in the North and the South and the overseas compatriots put their minds together and attain great national unity, the cardinal problem in national reunification will be solved and then other problems will naturally be resolved easily.

The idea that the harmony and unity of the whole nation precisely means national reunification proceeds from a deep-going exposition of the truth of the chuche philosophy about the decisive role of the driving force in all the movements.

National reunification is an independent cause of our nation that no one can achieve for us and, therefore, the driving force of national reunification is the entire Korean nation. Every member of the Korean nation should do his responsibility and role as the master of national reunification and, to this end, the whole nation should unite closely as one.

The idea that the concord and unity of the whole nation precisely means national reunification is based on the nation-wide nature of the reunification question.

The reunification of the country is a nation-wide cause that can be achieved only on the basis of the interests of the entire fellow countrymen and by the united strength of the entire people. Only when our nation achieves harmony and is united as one, can it effectively struggle against the internal and external splittists obstructing national reunification and fulfil its responsibility and role as the driving force of national reunification.

The idea that the concord and unity of the whole nation precisely means national reunification correctly reflects the matured demand of the developing national reunification movement at the present juncture.

A remarkable progress has been made in the work for achieving the harmony and unity of the nation these years. If all the fellow countrymen put their minds together this way, it will achieve the great unity of the whole nation and realize national reunification eventually.

We advocate the formula of national reunification through confederation based on one nation, one state, two systems and two governments to achieve the genuine national harmony and unity.

The entire Korean nation, whether they live in the North, South or overseas, should unite as one and dedicate themselves to the struggle for accomplishing the cause of national reunification common to the nation, those who have strength devoting strength, those who have knowledge dedicating knowledge and those who have money donating money.

Our nation will certainly remove all the obstacles and achieve the reunification of the country with their united strength.

Yon Hyong-muk Receives Reply From Li Peng

SK2210070891 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1300 GMT 20 Oct 91

[Text] Comrade Yon Hyong-muk, premier of the State Administration Council, has received a reply message from Comrade Li Peng, premier of the State Council of the PRC, in response to his congratulatory message on the 42d anniversary of the PRC's founding.

The reply message expressed that he deeply thanked him for sending the congratulatory message and continued: On this occasion, I hope that friendship and unity between the peoples of China and Korea will be further strengthened and developed as time goes by and that the Korean people will accomplish greater victory in socialist revolution and construction. I also wish you greater results in your work to carry out the Third Seven-Year Plan of the people's economy.

Premier Looks Ahead to Improved Tokyo Relations

OW2210123091 Tokyo KYODO in English
1205 GMT 22 Oct 91

[Excerpt] Pyongyang, Oct. 22 KYODO—North Korean Prime Minister Yon Hyong-muk said Tuesday he looks forward to improved relations with Tokyo and visiting Japan in the near future.

Speaking to Japanese reporters here on the eve of the fourth round of inter-Korean prime ministerial talks, Yon said "I was moved by the outpouring of feeling toward our people shown by the Japanese people at Narita Airport during a stopover there."

Yon stopped over at Tokyo's main international airport on his way to Pyongyang last month after attending the joint entry of North Korea and South Korea into the United Nations last month.

He said Tuesday he hoped to meet Japan's expected new leader Kiichi Miyazawa once bilateral relations have been normalized.

Tokyo and Pyongyang negotiators have met for four rounds of talks over the past year seeking to establish full diplomatic relations, but have been stymied by Japan's demands that North Korea open its nuclear facilities to international inspection.

On Tuesday, Yon insisted "we have neither the desire, the capability, nor the technology to develop nuclear weapons.

"Although there are more than a thousand nuclear weapons in the South (Korea), it is extremely unfair (to ask us to) unilaterally submit to inspections," Yon said. "It will not be possible to force us to submit by pressure."

Meanwhile, Tokyo has been urged by South Korea not to move ahead of Seoul's own attempts to improve relations with Pyongyang.

On Tuesday, South Korean Prime Minister Chong Wonsik and a 90-member entourage arrived in the North Korean capital for the first inter-Korean prime ministerial talks in 10 months.

Yon said that the Korean people had high expectations for the prime ministers' talks opening Wednesday and hopes the negotiations would lead to progress toward the unification of the divided peninsula. [passage omitted]

Delegations Leave for Iran, Japan, United States

SK2210110791 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1043 GMT 22 Oct 91

[Text] Pyongyang October 22 (KCNA)—A delegation of the General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea [GFTUK] headed by Won Tong-ku, chairman of the GFTUK Central Committee, to visit Iran; a delegation of the International Department of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea headed by Kim Hyong-u, vice-director of the department, to visit Japan; and a delegation of the Korean Buddhist Federation headed by Pak Tae-ho, chairman of the central committee of the federation, to visit the United States left here today.

'Families of the Missing' Rally in South

SK2010084991 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0815 GMT 20 Oct 91

[Text] Pyongyang October 20 (KCNA)—More than 100 members of the South Korean Council of Families of the Missing held a citizens meeting to find out the missing at the plaza of Seoul Railway Station on October 17 and called upon all the people to participate in finding out the missing, according to a radio report from Seoul.

They, the families of the missing, hardly repressing uneasiness at the fate of the missing, called for taking an active part in the movement to find out and save the missing.

In South Korea the authorities kidnap and kill those who go against the grain with them and human traders kidnap and sell women and children, causing public uneasiness at the missing.

KCNA Reviews 19 Oct Pyongyang Press

SK1910064491 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0510 GMT 19 Oct 91

[Press review]

[Text] Pyongyang October 19 (KCNA)—Papers here today carry a report that the great leader President Kim Il-song met and congratulated the participants in the meeting of sergeant majors of the Korean People's Army (KPA) and a photograph he had taken with them and a report that the meeting was closed.

Papers carry a photo-accompanied report that President Kim Il- song received the Ugandan military delegation.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il received a gift from the head of the Ugandan military delegation, say the papers.

NODONG SINMUN carries words of the world public circles praising Comrade Kim Chong-il as a genius of construction.

The paper devotes one whole page to an article titled "Under Warm Care for Old Generation of Revolution" about the deep trust and love shown by President Kim Il-song and Comrade Kim Chong-il for anti-Japanese revoulutionary martyr Chong Tong-chol.

Spotlighted in the paper are accounts of meetings held in Korea to vow to thoroughly implement the recent teachings of President Kim Il-song on spreading clay on the paddy fields.

Thanks of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea were conveyed to co-op farms which set examples in each feeding more than 10,000 ducks and geese this year, says the paper.

According to the press, the Peruvian president met the delegation of the DPRK Supreme People's Assembly.

Printed in the press are accounts of the sojourn of the Pochonbo Light Music Troupe in Japan, the sojourn of the Pyongyang Wangjaesan Light Music Troupe in China and widespread report of its performances by the Chinese news media.

NODONG SINMUN carries reports that the journalists and pressmen in Pyongyang held a meeting demanding the return of old man Yi In- mo, former war correspondent of the Korean People's Army, who is residing in South Korea, to the northern half of the country and that the International Association of Democratic Lawyers made public a communique demanding his return.

Carried in the paper is a statement issued to the press by Pak Su-tong, chairman of the Central Committee of the Union of Agricultural Working People of Korea, demanding that the United States totally withdraw the nuclear weapons from South Korea.

Given in the press is news that O Chin-u, minister of People's Armed Forces, met the Navy delegation of the Chinese People's Liberation Army and a soldiers' meeting was held at the Navy Command of the Korean People's Army in welcome of the delegation.

It is reported in the press that a council for missing persons was formed in South Korea, the U.S. imperialists deployed new-type missiles in the U.S. infantry units present in South Korea and the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets committed joint aerial and air-to-ground strike exercises and aerial espiona against the northern half of Korea.

NODONG SINMUN comes out with an article saying that the South Korean ruling quarters these days raised hue and cry as if they were interested in the question of peace on the Korean peninsula.

In an article MINJU CHOSON lays bare the reactionary nature of the "liberal democracy" doctrine advertized by the No Tae-u ruling group in a bid to cover up the nature of the fascist "regime".

Speakers at the 46th U.N. General Assembly session voiced support to the Korean people's cause of national reunification, says NODONG SINMUN.

Papers inform the readers that Comrade Fidel Castro participated in ground-breaking ceremonies of projects of a hotel and an airfield.

Conspicuous in NODONG SINMUN is news that the Japanese peasants opposed the opening of rice market and Taiwanese spies were arrested in China.

Papers observe the 10th anniversary of the signing of the treaty of friendship and cooperation between the DPRK and Angola.

NODONG SINMUN introduces Iran brisk in reconstruction.

"Pullout of U.S. Military Base Is an Urgent Demand of the Times" is the title of a NODONG SINMUN article.

Papers say that the EC is in a dilemma owing to the disputes in Yugoslavia.

South Korea

South Delegation Crosses Panmunjom for Talks

SK2210005091 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0000 GMT 22 Oct 91

[Text] Our side's delegation, which will attend the fourth round of North-South high-level talks, went to North Korea at 0830 this morning through Panmunjom.

In a statement released before crossing Panmunjom, our side's delegation said that we should now launch full-scale preparations to realize the reunified state within this century, and to achieve this we will exert all efforts with patience and sincerity so that the North and the South can reach a basic agreement on normalizing relations in all domains during the upcoming Pyongyang talks.

Yi Tong-pok, our side's spokesman, stressed that we will also exert our greatest effort to make North Korea abandon its unrealistic revolutionary line against the South and will also strongly call on it to unconditionally accept the international nuclear inspection and give up developing nuclear weapons.

Spokesman Yi expressed the hope for finding a breakthrough in resolving the issue of separated families and stressed that the North Korean side should strive to satisfactorily conduct the upcoming talks in a spirit of mutual respect and reciprocity.

Our side's delegation, which will visit North Korea through Panmunjom, is scheduled to leave the Kaesong Railway Station at 0900 and will arrive in Pyongyang Railway Station at 1240 today.

Arrives in Pyongyang

SK2210080991 Seoul YONHAP in English 0756 GMT 22 Oct 91

[Text] Pyongyang, Oct. 22 (YONHAP)—South Korean Prime Minister Chong Won-sik arrived in the North Korean capital Tuesday afternoon for the fourth round of inter-Korean high-level talks.

Chong and the South Korean delegation was greeted by North Korean Prime Minister Yon Hyong-muk at Paekhwawon Guesthouse, where they will stay three nights, and toured the People's Palace of Culture, the venue of the talks.

They are accompanied by 33 supporting officials and 50 journalists.

Delegation spokesman Yi Tong-pok issued an arrival statement that said the South Koreans had come to Pyongyang "in order to produce agreements by narrowing the differences of the positions of the two sides."

South Korea wanted dialogue that contributed to improving South-North relations and eased the pain of division, it said.

"Now that the South and the North are admitted to the United Nations, we should make efforts to normalize the relations as early as possible and seek co-prosperity and develop conditions for peaceful reunification," the statement said.

The talks begin at 10 A.M. Wednesday [23 October] and will be open to the press.

Train Trip to Pyongyang Detailed

SK2210093991 Seoul YONHAP in English 0851 GMT 22 Oct 91

[Text] Pyongyang, Oct. 22 (YONHAP)—South Korean Prime Minister Chong Won-sik and his delegation were greeted by North Korean Prime Minister Yon Hyong-muk and his delegation on arrival in the lobby of Paekhwawon Guest House at 12:55 Wednesday.

In the first order of business, they posed together in front of a painting of Mt. Paektu on the lobby wall for an official photograph. They then moved to a drawing room and talked for about seven minutes.

Chong told Yon that he had hoped the train that carried them from Kaesong would stop for a while at Chaeryong, where he was born, and at Sariwon, where he attended elementary school.

Yon asked Chong about the health of former Prime Minister Kang Yong-hun, and Chong told Yon that Kang sent his regards.

"I hope you to come to Seoul this year," Chong said.

"I hope so," Yon replied.

Some 40 foreign journalists, including correspondents from China's XINHUA News Agency, ASAHI SHIMBUN of Japan and REUTERS of Great Britain, covered the meeting of the South and North Korean delegates and the arrival statement by South Korean spokesman Yi Pong-pok.

—The South Korean delegates arrived in the North Korean section of the truce village of Panmunjom at 8:25 A.M. and were greeted by North Korean delegates.

They were given flowers by 10 girls from Sonjuk High School.

The South Korean premier said the talks, resuming after 10 months suspension, should not fail to bear fruit because the environment surrounding Korea had changed greatly.

An Pyong-su, vice chairman of the North Korean Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland, replied that he was sorry the previous talks had yielded no progress and commended Chong's resolution.

—The South Korean delegation led by Prime Minister Chong Won-sik got on a train at Kaesung station at 9 A.M. and headed for Pyongyang.

During the trip, Yi Tong-pok, spokesman for the southern delegation, had a reunion with An and Paek Nam-chun, councillor of the Administration Council, after a lapse of 19 years. They were representatives to the South-North Coordinating Committee in 1972.

In an impromtu press conference on the train, Chong, attending the talks for the first time, said he would do his best to live up to the expectations of the people in both halves of Korea.

—The train trip from Kaesong to Pyongyang took three and a half hours, during which North Korean journalists and guides said the prime ministers should adopt a non-aggression declaration.

Curious North Korean journalists asked about possible South Korean presidential candidates next year and about a move to found a party by politicians loyal to former President Chon Tu-hwan.

Pyongyang citizens gave a cool welcome to the Seoul delegation and a North Korean guide explained they were disappointed because there were no results in the past three talks.

—As the train approached Sariwon, the prime minister told reporters that since he left his hometown in 1946, he is making homecoming for the first time in 45 years.

"When I was young, there were so many apple trees that we could actually pick apples by stretching arms from the windows of a passing train," he recalled. "But now, the trees are gone and the fields are so desolate."

When the train passed Sariwon at 11:20 A.M., he pointed at Mt. Kyungam and said he often climbed that mountain as a young boy. He also recited the address of his old home—No. 153 So-ri, Sariwon City. But now he could not even locate the site of his old house since the nearby forest has long gone.

Premiers Speak at Banquet

SK2210132391 Seoul YONHAP in English 1303 GMT 22 Oct 91

[Text] Pyongyang, Oct. 22 (YONHAP)—Prime ministers of South and North Korea expressed resolution Tuesday to produce fruitful results from the fourth round of high-level talks opening here Wednesday.

North Korean Prime Minister Yon Hyong-muk, in a dinner he hosted for the South Korean delegates to the talks, said the two sides still stood at a starting point as they had failed to meet for nearly a year.

"No one can block the movement to reunify our fatherland. It is the grand march of the entire people which can never be stopped...the current of history calls on delegates from the two sides [as received] a new awakening to their mission to lay the peaceful ground for fatherland reunification...

"We, delegates, should accelerate their stride, make the talks progress speedily, and produce a good agreement so that we can make up for the lost one year."

South Korean Prime Minister Chon Won-sik said both sides should agree on "an effective non-aggression" based on mutual respect and confidence, and should convert the present armistice system into a peace regime.

"The South and North should also...activate multifarious exchanges and cooperation as partners for prosperity and reunification of the people...

"The reunification we pursue is not the so-called unification by absorption but the democratic and peaceful unification by which both South and North become the winners."

Defense Minister Cites Need for Nuclear Umbrella

SK2110131291 Seoul YONHAP in English 1247 GMT 21 Oct 91

[Text] Seoul, Oct. 21 (YONHAP)—Defense Minister Yi Chong-ku said Monday South Korea needed U.S. nuclear umbrella whatever its form and that Seoul should allot 4 percent or more of its gross national product on defense.

Testifying before the National Assembly Defense Committee, Yi said, "as long as nuclear threat exists in our surroundings, we need U.S. nuclear umbrella whatever the form. We believe respecting the U.S. NCND (neither confirm, nor deny) policy is in conformity with our over-all security interests."

"The NCND policy is part of the nuclear policy maximizing the psychological effect deriving from the uncertainty (of nuclear presence). As long as the United States keeps nuclear capability...there will be no change in the effects of the NCND policy or the nuclear umbrella," he said.

He said the government was studying various countermeasures against possible misjudgment on the part of North Korea, but not a tripartite meeting involving South and North Korea and the United States on nuclear issues.

"The government is working on various countermeasures, as North Korea may mistake the new nuclear policy of the United States as contributing to forming a climate for its military provocation against South Korea.

"We may discuss with the United States such things as introducing ultra-modern conventional arms or equipping the U.S. forces in Korea with them. We have never considered a tripartite meeting concerning the nuclear inspection of North Korea."

North Korea is believed to be only a few years away from producing an atomic bomb or is already capable of doing so. World governments and international agencies call on North Korea to open its nuclear facilities to outside inspection, but the North has not complied, arguing such an inspection should be made simultaneously in both halves of the Korean peninsula.

Commenting on the call for reduction of defense expenditure, the minister said 4 percent or more of the gross national product should be put aside for military spending to deter North Korea's combat capability.

"Our military spending exceeded North Korea's from 1976, but the North has poured more than 48 percent of its total military expenditure on building up combat power while we shared only 33 percent. When comparing the accumulative total, our investment lingers around 71 percent of the North's," he said.

As for the reported U.S. pressure concerning Seoul's support for peace efforts during the Gulf war, he said, "the United States has not yet made any official request that we carry out the support in the form of cash within this year. We expect it will suggest, sooner or later, new methods of executing 83 million dollars worth of transport support and 50 million dollars worth of military supplies."

Mongolian President Ochirbat Arrives for Visit

SK2210063191 Seoul YONHAP in English 0603 GMT 22 Oct 91

[Text] Seoul, Oct. 22 (OANA-YONHAP)—Mongolian President Punsalmaagiyn Ochirbat arrived in Seoul on Tuesday afternoon for a summit with South Korean President No Tae-u.

Ochirbat will meet with economic and parliamentary leaders and tour industrial complexes during his three-day visit.

Korea established official ties with Mongolia in March last year, the first with a communist country in Asia.

Bilateral trade more than doubled after diplomatic normalization to 5.86 million U.S. Dollars in January-July compared to 2.7 million dollars last year.

Ochirbat will call on No on Wednesday morning for talks on boosting bilateral economic and political cooperation. Foreign Minister Tserenpiliyn Gombosuren will meet with his Korean counterpart, Yi Sang-ok, on Wednesday afternoon.

No Tae-u Receives Lithuanian Prime Minister

SK2210090191 Seoul KBS-1 Television Network in Korean 1200 GMT 21 Oct 91

[Text] President No Tae-u received Gediminas Vagnorius, prime minister of the Lithuanian Republic, this afternoon. Vagnorius was sworn in as the prime minister of the Lithuanian Republic last January.

North Demands Simultaneous Weapons Inspections

SK2110234891 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 2200 GMT 21 Oct 91

[By correspondent Yi Yun-song from Tokyo]

[Text] Yesterday, Chon In-chol, North Korean vice minister of foreign affairs, revealed that, even if the United States fully withdraws the nuclear weapons deployed in South Korea, unless nuclear inspection is carried out simultaneously in the North and the South, North Korea will reject the International Atomic Energy Agency's [IAEA] nuclear inspection.

Vice Minister Chon In-chol gave a press conference in Japan and said that, even if nuclear weapons are withdrawn from South Korea, North Korea will not sign the treaty on nuclear inspection with IAEA. He added that North Korea will not accept a unilateral nuclear inspection.

North 'Likely To Sign' IAEA Agreement in Feb

SK2110025891 Seoul YONHAP in English 0246 GMT 21 Oct 91

[Text] Seoul, Oct. 21 (YONHAP)—North Korea is likely to sign a nuclear safeguards agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) when the IAEA Board of Governors meets in February next year, a South Korean Government official said Monday.

Although North Korea has delayed signing, insisting on withdrawal of U.S. nuclear weapons in South Korea first and renunciation of nuclear development later, it was expected to sign an accord timed with the board meeting to avoid growing international pressure, he said.

Even after signing, however, North Korea was expected to delay international inspection of its nuclear facilities by citing procedural matters such as ratification of the accord, he said.

Defector on North's Nuclear Development

SK2010112391 Seoul SEOUL SINMUN in Korean 9 Oct 91 p 5

[Sixth installment of article entitled: "Ko Yong-hwan, Former Interpreter for Kim Il-song and High-Ranking North Korean Diplomat, Speaks"]

[Text] If one thinks that in view of its economic difficulties North Korea's military industry is nothing special, one is greatly mistaken. An episode illustrates this.

On 15 April 1987, Han Tok-su, chairman of General Federation of Korean Residents in Japan [Chongnyon], led a delegation to North Korea to congratulate Kim Il-song on his birthday. In a meeting with a high-ranking North Korean official, Chairman Han said: "Knowing North Korean residents' difficulties in living, a number of compatriots in Japan are trying to leave Chongnyon, being skeptical about North Korea. Is there a good method for preventing this?" Thus, he revealed his painful position.

To this, a high-ranking North Korean official, without making lengthy remarks, simply stated: "I will guide you to a plant, and let us talk about this after the tour."

The place where Chairman Han was guided was the 18 January Machine Plant (another name is Kagam plant) located in Kagam-ni, Kaechon County, South Pyongan Province. This plant is a complex for manufacturing military supplies, and its production facilities are built underground. Missiles, tanks, and motors are the main products of this complex.

Because the plant was built underground beneath a collective apartment area, only very few people living in Kaechon know about this plant. According to my elder brother, Ko Pang-nam (47), who once worked in Kagam plant and now is a design technician in Mangyongdae light electric appliances and machine plant (where ground-to-ship missiles are produced), the underground tunnels are so long that one cannot see their ends even if one walks all day long. After touring this plant, Chairman Han was reported to have said, "I was not aware that North Korea is so powerful. Now I have confidence in carrying out my duties."

Today, the issue of North Korea's development of nuclear weapons has become the one attracting people's keen interest. However, this issue is kept top secret in North Korea, and thus the people who have detailed knowledge about the background of this issue would be only four or five, including Kim Il-song and his son.

Therefore, I cannot precisely tell whether North Korea has already developed nuclear weapons or is in a stage of development to a certain degree.

However, what I can tell at this moment is that the issue of North Korea's nuclear weapons had become an issue in North Korean society and, in particular, among North Korean diplomatic officials since 1985.

It was at this time that a soundless rumor that "something will happen soon" began to spread among diplomats telepathically. The remark that "what good Stalin did was the timely development and possession of atomic bombs" also circulated among the people.

Up until the early 1980's, North Korean diplomats thought that the economic might of North and South Korea was nearly the same. However, they began to clearly realize during the 1985-86 period that South Korea's superiority was certain. Thus, they began to feel a sense of defeat. At that time, the rumor "we cannot cope with this situation with conventional (classic) [preceding word published in English] weapons; therefore, nuclear weapons must be developed" circulated among diplomats. As the result, they could recover mental stability. Both the ruling class and other officials had the same feeling that the development of nuclear weapons was "the last means for preserving their political system."

At that time, a number of various technological delegations, including a team for designing atomic reactors, went from North Korea to France and returned home after "extracting" technology on atomic reactors. Concerning this, the North Korean diplomats observed that the North Korean authorities chose France and Austria as nations for collecting technology and intelligence required for development of nuclear weapons because the restrictions on these countries by the Coordinating Committee for Multilateral Export Controls [COCOM] were relatively "mild."

In particular, when the meeting of the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] was held in Austria last year, urgent telegrams and messages on the issue of nuclear inspection were delivered to the North Korean missions overseas one after another.

The contents of the messages were to encourage each mission to obtain support from each nation to oppose the big powers' nuclear monopolization and nuclear inspection.

Although the development of nuclear weapons became an issue among the diplomats in the mid-1980's, some people had already begun talking in whispers about nuclear weapons since the early part of the 1960's, much earlier than the time the diplomats made an issue of nuclear development.

In 1959, North Korea established a nuclear physics department at Kim Il-song University. With this as the beginning, North Korea also established a nuclear physics department in Kim Chaek Industrial College and set up underground nuclear research facilities in Pakchon, North Pyongan Province, in the middle 1960's.

At that time, Kim Il-song once asked, "Why do sons of the core officials go only to political and economics departments instead of nuclear physics?" He personally directed that "clever children from those core officials be sent to the nuclear physics department." As a result, a number of students applied for this department, "overflowing with the hope." After graduation, they all served in the Nuclear Research Institute in Pakchon. I heard that since they could not meet even their parents while working there, and since their visit to Pyongyang was not free, they harshly complained of this.

I heard the rumors, "if you go to the nuclear physics department, you will be a ghost of Pakchon" and "they have already produced atomic bombs" while I was attending the Pyongyang Foreign Language Institute during the 1965-72 period and while I was attending the Pyongyang Foreign Language College during the 1972-1977 period. Because the majority of the students attending these schools were sons of high-ranking North Korean officials, 80 to 90 percent of the rumors going around among them were accurate and correct.

Judging all this, it appears that North Korea began the development of nuclear weapons already in the middle part of the 1960's and that such development has been further accelerated since the economic gap between North and South Korea widened during the 1980's.

Defector on North's Policy Toward South

SK2110084791 Seoul SEOUL SINMUN in Korean 16 Oct 91 p 6

[Seventh installment of article entitled: "Ko Yong-hwan, Former Interpreter for Kim Il-song and High-Ranking North Korean Diplomat, Speaks"]

[Text] The No. 3 building of the Workers Party of Korea [WPK], which is located in Chonsun-tong, Moranbong-kuyok, Pyongyang City is the general headquarters of North Korea's operations against South Korea. "No. 3 Building," which is an abbreviation, is well known to the North Korean people as the general headquarters of North Korea's policy toward South Korea. Those who work at "No. 3 Building" are special personnel who enjoy the strong power of "nothing is impossible."

On the other hand, the main building of the WPK where Kim Chong-il's office is located is located in Changgwan Street, Chung-kuyok, Pyongyang City and is commonly called the "party center." The "party center's" instruction is synonymous with Kim Chong-il's instruction and is regarded as an absolute order which no one dares reject.

In the No. 3 building of the WPK are those departments indispensable for making policies on South Korea and for executing them, namely the Reunification Propaganda Department of the party Central Committee (the External Liaison Department, director, Yun Ki-pok), the External Intelligence Research Department (director, Kwon Hui-kyong), and the Operation Department (director, Yim Ho- kyun).

The person in charge of No. 3 building is of course Yun Ki-pok, who is secretary of the party Central Committee for South Korean affairs. After Ho Tam disappeared from the political arena because of illness in May last year (he died in May this year), Yun Ki-pok was elected as secretary of the party Central Committee for South Korean affairs and as chairman of the newly established Reunification Policy Deliberation Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly. Since then Yun has come to the fore as the person in charge of executing all policies toward South Korea.

The fact that Yun Ki-pok has become the master of No. 3 building constitutes an important clue which proves that North Korea's policy toward South Korea is changing into a practical policy seeking economic gains. Yun is 65 years old this year. He hails from Seoul. He graduated from Susong primary school in Seoul and went to Moscow to study at Moscow University when he was a fourth year student at Kyonggi high school in Seoul. He majored in statistics at the university.

He taught at the College of the People's Economy in 1956, served as North Korea's minister of finance in 1967, and as chairman of the State Planning Committee in 1969. As his career indicates, he is one of North Korea's economic experts. In particular, he worked under Kim Il-song, chairman of the Central People's Committee [CPC], for almost 10 years as first vice chairman of economic policy under the CPC. Because of this, he has reportedly won Kim Il-song's special confidence as an economic expert.

In 1985 North Korea's foriegn ministry several times submitted to Kim Chong-il a "letter of recommendation" calling for him to apporve the ministry's plan to use Yun Ki-pok as the head of North Korea's delegations to be dispatched to foreign countries, including the congratulatory delegation to be sent to Madagascar's party congress. At that time, however, Kim Chong-il flatly refused the recommendation and scolded the ministry for its plan. According to Kang Sok-chu, first vice foreign minister, turning down the recommendation Kim Chong-il warned the ministry, saying that "Yun Ki-pok is the person who is not supposed to go to foreign countries on tempory business and, therefore, do not touch him."

After that, a rumor circulated among people in the foreign ministry that "Yun Ki-pok is an authority on the economy and if he visits this country and that country he is likely to be imbued with revisionist economic theory. This is why the party center does not allow him to travel overseas."

So, when Yun was elected as secretary of the party Central Committee for South Korean affairs last year, people in the foreign ministry, commenting on his election, said: There is a possibility that our future strategy for dialogue with South Korea will concentrate on economic affairs. Yun Ki-pok, who is an economic expert, is likely to accept to the maximum various forms of economic "favors" from South Korea, while giving the impression that North Korea should "unavoidably" receive them, and use them in North Korea's "economic construction."

Yun Ki-pok is also known as an ambitious person. It was the general opinion among people in the foreign ministry that Yun would unfold a double-dealing policy of continuing the "work," as in the past with dissident opposition organizations and figures in South Korea, namely the National Council of University Student Representatives [Chondaehyop] and religious figures, on one hand and responding to dialogue with the South Korean authorities on the other hand.

Therefore, since last year the indirect trade volume between North and South Korea has remarkably increased and, as a result, North-South trade activity has been greatly revitalized. We should realize that such a trend is closely related to Yun Ki-pok's role.

However, we should ponder whether the North-South economic exchanges (rather, the South side's goodwill economic assistance to North Korea) will really contribute to achieving national reunification. Recently North Korea accepted 5,000 tons of rice from South Korea and has responded to various forms of indirect trade with South Korea. However, this is aimed at strengthening its socialist system, not aimed at achieving national reunification.

North Korea will not change its basic policy toward South Korea until the seventh party congress of the WPK which is slated for the fall of 1993. Rather, North Korea will continue to make efforts to strengthen its socialist system by introducing technology and capital from South Korea through Yun Ki-pok, secretary of the party Central Committee for South Korean affairs, while judging that favorable circumstances are being created for pursuing its hackneyed strategies toward South Korea, namely "dissolution of the United Nations Command" and "the establishment of nuclear-free zone on the Korean peninsula."

Even though South Korean goods with South Korean labels are being introduced into North Korea, North Korean people have no way of knowing that they were made in South Korea. When Japanese-made "color television sets" were distributed in North Korea in the past, North Korean people said "that's wonderful" and "it's strange." When they removed the North Korean labels "Chintalle" and "Mongran kkot" attached to the color television sets they found the Japanese labels of "Hitachi" attached under them. Everything goes this way in North Korea today.

It is said that 5,000 tons of South Korean rice were introduced to Najin Port in North Korea last July. However, North Koreans do not know this. In 1984, North Korea sent relief goods to South Korea for South Korean flood victims. At that time, according to the South Korean authorities, they sent electronic products to North Korea as return presents for the relief goods. However, I never heard this story when I was in North

Korea. Even Ko Song-sun, who was then one of the able secretaries in the foreign ministry, did not know this.

Another strong man in the No. 3 building of the WPK who is next to Yun Ki-pok in executing North Korea's policy toward South Korea is Kwon Hui-kyong, director of the External Intelligence Research Department. The External Intelligence Research Department is a powerful department and is responsible for activities against South Korea such as the Korean Air bombing incident in 1987 and the Rangoon bombing incident. The appointment of Kwon Hui-kyong—who was North Korean ambassador to Moscow for eight years, vice foreign minister, and deputy director of the International Department of the party Central Committee—as the director of the External Intelligence Research Department shows that North Korea is changing its operations against South Korea from adventurous military action to using diplomatic tactics.

People in the Foreign Ministry expressed surprise when Kwon Hui- kyong, who is called "a good-natured grandfather," was appointed director of the External Intelligence Research Department in the spring last year. The background of his appointment was that he was on intimate terms with Chang Song-taek, a strong man close to Kim Chong-il. In other words, when he was North Korea's ambassador to Moscow from 1980 to 1990 Kwon Hui-kyong was on intimate terms with Chang Song-taek who frequently visited Moscow while preparing for the 13th World Festival of Youth and Students held in 1989 in Pyongyang. It was said that at that time Chang Song-taek introduced Kwon to Kim Chong-il and that, as a result, Kwon was appointed director of the External Intelligence Research Department, which is considered an exceptional post for a diplomat.

Lack of Soviet Oil Hurts North's Production

SK1910035591 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 19 Oct 91 p 2

[Text] The Soviet Union's demand that North Korea pay hard currency for Soviet exports has saddled the North's flagging economy with additional and unwanted problems, intelligence sources said yesterday.

The Soviet Union, the North's largest economic patron, established an agreement on trade and economic cooperation with North Korea on April 28, which was highlighted by its demand for hard currency in return for its exports.

Affected by the demand, two-way trade volume dropped sharply to $800 million during the first half of this year against the $2,350 million registered a year earlier, the sources said.

The North's crude oil imports also recorded a drastic fall from 440,000 tons to 45,000 tons during the period.

"The North is expected to experience a hungry, cold winter. Its largest oil refinery, Sungni (Victory) Chemical Plant, has virtually stopped operations and production of textiles, made with oil derivatives, has been remarkably reduced," one senior source said.

Radio Moscow reported on Sept. 3 that the Soviet Union, also beset by food and hard currency shortages, decided to offer financial aid only for the construction of an electric power plant in East Pyongyang in the April agreement, revising its earlier commitment to assist on 19 other projects.

The North has to suspend building its first atomic power plant, due to be completed next year, as the Soviet Union cut off financial and technical assistance, according to the sources.

Other sources said that the North would become more isolated from other socialist economies as Kim Il-song failed to receive firm assurances from his Chinese friends during his recent visit to Beijing. Rather, he was given pointed advice about economic reform.

China turned down Kim's request for its enhanced role alternative to that of the Soviet Union in economic terms as well as in the political arena in the wake of the collapse of the Communist Party in the Soviet Union.

The sources said that Kim Il-song has no option but to step up approaches to Japan and the United States to save his country's faltering economy.

Normalization negotiations between Pyongyang and Tokyo produced no tangible progress in the fourth round due to the former's refusal to open its nuclear facilities to the international inspection. The North's stance has crippled itself in attempts to improve relations with Washington.

"There are many good reasons for the North to woo capitalist countries to get their capital and technology in a desperate bid to put vigor into its economy because it has no ally in the East to turn to. It is expected to remove obstacles in the way to better ties with them," one official said.

In this context, they said, the Kim Il-song government is more likely than before to accept the South's proposals for economic cooperation as a bailout means.

Soviet Journalist Views Life in North, South

SK2010124791 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 10 Oct 91 p 17

[First installment of article by Razubayev, PRAVDA commentator: "South and North as Reflected in the Eyes of a Soviet Journalist"]

[Text] Editor's note: Vyacheslav Razubayev, 62, PRAVDA commentator who spent a total of 25 years in Pyongyang as correspondent in four postings to that capital, beginning in 1953 until February 1989, came to

Korea on 25 September for a 10-day visit at the invitation of CHOSON ILBO. Among his fellow foreign correspondents in Pyongyang, he stayed the longest amount of time there and he still cherishes his faith in socialism to the point of keeping his Communist Party membership, despite the recent upheavals in the Soviet Union. After seeing the cities, rural communities, and Panmunjom, Mr. Razubayev said that he was shocked by the inordinate difference between what he had heard about the ROK in the North and what he saw in the South with his own eyes. This is the first of two articles he contributed to CHOSON ILBO on his experiences in North Korea and his impressions of South Korea. [end editor's note]

Panmunjom: Once this small village in the middle of the Korean peninsula drew the attention of the press the world over. Now, nearly 40 years after the war on the Korean peninsula ended, Panmunjom seems to be losing its worthiness as one of major targets for the world press to cover. Nevertheless, it is still at Panmunjom that the officials from the South and North try to settle general issues through dialogue.

Since my first trip to this village in 1953, I had made over 100 trips to Panmunjom until early 1989, counting only the ones I made during my stay in the North.

Every time I went to Panmunjom, I saw the two sides engage in endless bickering and go home empty-handed. Because of this, I wondered whether the South and North had any chance at all to hammer out an agreement of any kind.

I have met many North Korean people in the process of covering the talks at Panmunjom. Among them was Senior Colonel Hong Su-kun, who guided me on several occasions and is one of those who has left a lasting impression on me. Every time I was there, he took me to the observation tower built in the southern boundary of the DMZ and allowed me to scrutinize the South side through an observation telescope.

Senior Colonel Hong explained to me that all the villages in the South along the DMZ had been shut down, that their residents had been evacuated, and that the South side had amassed in those villages armed forces after building military camps there as part of war preparations.

Pointing to houses and villages in good, orderly condition, I asked him, "What are they?" Senior Colonel Hong would say: "They look like villages. However, nobody lives there, because they are jerry-built for demonstration purposes and only store war material." At that time, there was no way of verifying it. Senior Colonel Hong said that although he had closely watched the villages in the South for years, he had seen no residents or farmers in them.

After two years since returning to Moscow, I had the opportunity to visit Seoul.

I asked the Seoul authorities to permit me to directly cover Panmunjom and the underground tunnels, and my requests were accepted without any restrictions at all.

My coverage of Panmunjom that began in the South side of the Joint Security Area has turned out to be a good experience. Captain Chon, who guided me, was enthusiastic about his job, probably because he was curious about my background as a Soviet reporter who had stayed a long time in North Korea.

Virtually in every corner of the DMZ in the South side, this reporter could see people peacefully working in the well-tended rice paddies and in the fields where crops formed golden waves, and also could see well-paved roads and nice-looking houses.

I also could see children in good clothes playing in villages and heaps of just-harvested rice and other grains in the courts of every house. Nowhere were there any signs of war preparations or houses built for demonstrative purposes.

If I were to meet the Korean People's Army [KPA] Senior Colonel Hong Su-kun again, I think I would be able to tell him, quite clearly, how completely they have been telling foreign correspondents lies.

Of course, Korean and U.S. soldiers were seen in the South side of Panmunjom. However, given the fact that the DMZ is a place that constantly runs the risk of provocations and an outbreak of war, the presence of soldiers at Panmunjom was rather natural.

What is more, these soldiers were more serene and softer in their bearings than the civilians who were there as visitors. This reporter could not help remembering the soldiers in the North.

I would ask: "Why do you need so many soldiers here?" Senior Colonel Hong Su-kun in North Korea would emphatically answer: "Our KPA soldiers are ready all the time to smash any attack that the U.S. imperialists and their followers in the South might attempt to launch against us."

Regrettably, however, tensions on the Korean peninsula have not yet dissipated. Despite the collapse of the Berlin Wall and the sudden, enormous changes in the Soviet Union and East Europe, there seems to be no noteworthy sign of change in the tense situation on the Korean peninsula.

What struck me most was an underground tunnel in areas close to Panmunjom.

Captain Chon's explanation was that a division of troops can penetrate the South through the underground tunnel dug from the northern portion of the DMZ to its southern boundary. This reporter was genuinely surprised. I had heard absolutely nothing about this tunnel while I was in North Korea.

I think that the concrete wall allegedly built by the South side for defense purposes and the underground tunnel built for the purpose of invading the South are graphic indications of how deeply Seoul and Pyongyang have distrusted each other over the past 40 years and how easily a war can break out over a tiny incident.

A countless number of tiny incidents in the past seem to have pushed the situation there to the breaking point. One such incident was the so-called "raid on Chongwadae" by North Korean guerrillas in 1968.

Toward the end of 1967, shortly before this incident, the North Korean Foreign Ministry called the foreign press corps and embassies in Pyongyang in a meeting to urge them to build air raid shelters in their buildings. We were also told that we were banned from traveling to the areas south of Sariwon and north of Anju. The ministry explained that it was a measure taken to prepare for a "northward invasion." What is self-evident is that it was precisely the opposite of a northward invasion.

When I was about to leave Pyongyang upon completing my last stint there, the North Korean authorities said that they would like to confer the highest medal on me. I turned down the offer because I did not like the idea of receiving a medal from the bloodied hands of Kim Il-song and his son who had killed a countless number of bright people I had known since the 1950s, including Choe Chang-ik and Pak Kum-chol.

Discusses North's Economy

SK2010131391 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 17 Oct 91 p 19

[Second installment of article by Razubayev, PRAVDA commentator: "South and North as Reflected in the Eyes of a Soviet Journalist"]

[Text] Editor's note: This is the last of two articles contributed by Vyacheslav Razubayev, 62, PRAVDA commentator, who came to Korea at the invitation of CHOSON ILBO. In this article, Razubayev, who stayed in Pyongyang for a total of 25 years, the longest among foreign correspondents, says that the North Korean regime has a long way to go before achieving the slogan "white rice and meat soup," the slogan it has kept in place since its founding. [end editor's note]

The slogan one sees most frequently in North Korean rural communities reads: "Rice is communism." This slogan can be seen everywhere one goes—on the sides of roads, community halls in the rural villages, and even in the middle of rice paddies. In the beginning, I did not realize what this slogan meant. However, in the course of conversing with workers in the cooperative farms and fisheries stations it began to dawn on me that in North Korea's case, to secure a large quantity of rice is perceived to be the highest form of humanitarian development in the communist society. North Korea's Workers Party of Korea has been touting "steaming bowls filled with white, oily rice." Now, are the people in North Korea eating such rice? Nobody can give a definite answer easily, no matter how long one may have lived in North Korea, because the residents in North Korea cannot meet or converse with foreigners without permission from the authorities.

Even official data are not helpful in this regard. The statistics available to foreigners in Pyongyang indicate that the production of grains, including rice, has increased by nearly 500 percent since the "people's government was founded." I had visited many cooperative farms in North Korea during my stay there between 1953, when I started my career as a Soviet reporter, until 1989, when I left Pyongyang for the last time, and I knew that the production of grains in North Korea had increased drastically. Nonetheless, this is not an answer to the above question.

When I visited a cooperative farm in Wonhwari near Sunan, South Pyongan Province, the first cooperative farm ever organized in North Korea, in 1953, the chairman of the cooperative farm, Yi Ki-song, told me about the "teachings of the great leader" who said: Building the cooperative farms is the first step on the road that leads to the future of the Korean people being able to eat white rice and meat soup, live in houses with tiled roofs, and wear silk robes."

Nearly 40 years have passed since that time. Literally, members of the Wonhwari cooperative farms live in houses with tiled roofs. How about the white rice, meat soup, and silk robes? Despite the considerable increase in the production of grains, it is impossible to say that the members of the cooperative farm enjoy such luxuries. The yield of rice per chongbo [unit of acreage] in the fall of 1954 was said to be 2 tons, and by 1989 it had risen to 8 tons per chongbo.

Every late fall, the North Korean authorities would invite foreign diplomats and correspondents to cooperative farms to see what is known as "Harvest Festival." It was a meeting held to distribute among the members of the cooperative farms the grains and income that they produced during the year. Thousands of bags of rice would be heaped in the shape of Mt. Paektu in the middle of the village plazas, with portraits of the "great leader" placed atop the heap. Then the villagers would begin festivals that smack strongly of a banquet. During these festivals, members of the cooperative farms would receive envelopes bearing the amount of money and number of rice bags as their share. When I was in a cooperative farm in Mundok, South Pyongan Province, I asked the farmers to show me the contents of the envelopes, but Pak Chong-nam, guidance member of the Foreign Ministry Information Bureau who accompanied me there, turned the farmers away from me. Since that time, I have wondered whether the envelopes were actually empty or contained different figures from the ones on the outside of the envelopes, and the doubt has never left me.

After visiting a number of cooperative farms, I realized that each household of the cooperative farms was to receive 1,500 won of cash and more or less 200 bags of rice. Nevertheless, the so-called modern houses of the farm hands had no space at all to store grains. When I persisted in my questions, Cho Sang-pok, chairman of Saegil cooperative farm in South Hwanghae Province, reluctantly explained: "Except for 260 to 270 kilos of grains for our own use, we are supposed to sell the grains back to the authorities without delay." This means that like other working people, the farmers producing the grains are rationed 200 to 250 grams of rice every day. This amounts to a total of 650 to 700 grams of grains, a mixture of rice, corn, and wheat per day. Each farmer was said to have had savings of several thousand won on average in the bank. On many occasions, however, I heard some complain that they needed special approval from the authorities, including regional party committee secretaries, to withdraw their savings from the bank. The unique commercial system in North Korea is such that even if they had money in their pockets, they would have no daily necessities to buy.

The residents in North Korea need to produce what is known as a "household card" whenever they want to buy such basic necessities as clothes, kitchenware, and bedding goods. This card has a detailed record of the number of family members, amount of monthly income, and past purchases of daily necessities. Clerks in the shops carefully scrutinize the records and then decide whether the potential buyers are entitled to the goods.

In a sense, farmers in North Korea are industrious and have strong affection for their land to the point where it becomes a jealousy. Nevertheless, rice is just "cake in the picture" to the farmers just like it is to other working people. Shortly before I left Pyongyang, Kim Yong-ku, secretary of the Pakchon County party committee, said to me: "We are working very hard to eat white rice and meat soup, wear silk robes, and live in houses with tiled roofs as taught by the great leader."

It is questionable whether he himself believes that such a day will come.

Chondaehyop To Send Delegates to Berlin

SK2110132591 Seoul KBS-1 Television Network in Korean 1200 GMT 21 Oct 91

[Text] The National Council of University Student Representatives [Chondaehyop], in a news conference today at Songgyungwan University, said that it had decided to dispatch Miss Pak Song-hui, student of Kyonghui University, and Mr. Song Yong-sung, student of Konguk University, who are presently staying in North Korea as Chondaehyop's representatives, to its overseas headquarters in Berlin early next month.

Burma

UN Human Rights Investigators Arrive 21 Oct

BK2210085091 Hong Kong AFP in English 0617 GMT 22 Oct 91

[Text] Bangkok, Oct 22 (AFP)—A United Nations team has begun investigations into the state of human rights in Burma, diplomats in Rangoon said Tuesday.

The visit by the team, led by Japanese Professor Yozo Yokota, comes the week after Burma's detained opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

The team's arrival on Monday and its low-level welcome by the resident U.N. representative and the director general of Burma's International Organisations Department received a brief mention in the official Working People's Daily newspaper on Tuesday.

The team, which has been invited to Burma by the government, was expected to remain in the country until Saturday but its programme was not yet finalised, the diplomats said in telephone interviews from here.

Yokota was expected to seek a meeting with Aung San Suu Kyi, who has been under house arrest without charge for more than two years, they said.

A U.N. human rights team visited Burma last November but its investigations into alleged human rights violations there were severely restricted and it was refused access to the detained oppositon leader.

The leader of last year's team, Sadako Ogata, who was later appointed the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, refused to comment on her visit but sources familiar with her mission reported she complained to U.N. officials in Rangoon about the treatment she received form the junta.

"The government attitude and treatment of Mrs. Ogata was a deliberate attempt to obstruct her inquiry," one source said at the time.

International human rights groups, including U.K.-based Amnesty International have strongly criticised the state of human rights in the country.

Aung San Suu Kyi, whose National League for Democracy won more than 80 percent of the vote in a May 1990 election, has not been seen or contacted for many months.

Officials in Rangoon say she is still in her heavily guarded house on Rangoon's University Avenue and is free to leave the country, without conditions, at any time.

"We have received no evidence that she has been moved from her house but also no evidence that she is still there," a diplomat in Bangkok said.

"The reports that filter through suggest she is in very good health and being looked after fairly," a foreign resident in Rangoon said.

Foreign Minister Returns From UNGA, Tokyo

BK2010143791 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 20 Oct 91

[Text] The Myanmar [Burmese] delegation headed by Minister of Foreign Affairs U Ohn Gyaw returned to Yangon [Rangoon] by air this afternoon after attending the 46th United Nations General Assembly [UNGA] in New York.

The minister was welcomed back at Yangon airport by Lieutenant General Chit Swe, member of the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC] and minister of agriculture and forests and livestock breeding and fisheries; Major General Khin Nyunt, secretary-1 of the SLORC; Maj. Gen. Myo Nyunt, commander of the Yangon Military Command; Brigadier General Abel, minister of planning and finance and trade; responsible officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and Sallehudin bin Abdullah, Malaysian ambassador and acting dean of the diplomatic corps in Myanmar.

Also returning together with Minister U Ohn Gyaw was U Ba Thwin, director general of the International Organizations and Economic Department under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

On his return from New York, Minister U Ohn Gyaw stopped over in Tokyo and exchanged views on bilateral relations and regional issues with Japanese Foreign Minister Mr. Taro Nakayama.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Commentary Previews Cambodian Peace Pact Signing

BK2110140991 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0800 GMT 21 Oct 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] A major event in international affairs—and perhaps in the history of the Southeast Asian region—will take place this week. The final pact to end the bloodshed and factional struggle in Cambodia will be signed in Paris. It will also mark the start of the biggest peacekeeping and (?armistice) operations undertaken by the United Nations. Throughout the world, there will be a feeling of relief, tinged with some anxiety, considering that the Cambodian issue seemed to be an endless saga of strife.

At last, the various factions have yielded to pressures from the big powers and the persuasion of ASEAN members. The ambitious UN plan for Cambodia can be an excellent blueprint for stability and reconstruction of the economy. The [word indistinct] guards of the UN peace-keeping force will be deployed without delay. Soon after that, the civilian and military elements of the United Nations will enter Cambodia.

A particularly difficult task that the United Nations has to discharge is the prevention of arms trafficking, or parties in the 13-year conflict [words indistinct] not to (?obtain) arms and ammunition from external sources. This does not mean that they do not have access to the clandestine source within Cambodian territory. Be that as it may, the political leaders of Cambodia have been given a very rare and unique opportunity to win back national sovereignty as well as national pride. Many states are willing to come to the assistance of Cambodia. However, the prerequisite is political stability since the great tragedy for Cambodia and the international community at large [words indistinct].

The scale of damage done both physically and psychologically is still enormous to contemplate. Cambodia will have to depend on massive assistance from outside for many years. If the factional strife of the past can give way to a preoccupation with economic development, all will be well for the Cambodian people. They deserve a better future in view of what they have suffered in the past.

The role of Prince Norodom Sihanouk in the new political order that is emerging in Cambodia will be very crucial. He has the experience and the charisma to bring and to hold together varying shades of political ideologies. The prince is well known in international affairs. It is the only week in months that will be of [words indistinct]. The election to be held under UN supervision must be a clean and calm electoral exercise. Everybody should respect the outcome of the elections and the national government that earns the right to govern.

Another complex task is the resettlement of 350,000 refugees. Malaysia and its ASEAN partners will work together to help the Cambodian people to achieve success in the political and economic sectors.

Foreign Fishermen Detained for Violating Waters

BK2010152891 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia Network in English 1430 GMT 20 Oct 91

[Text] Some 212 foreign fishermen have been detained in Sarawak since early this year for violating the state's territorial waters.

Speaking to newsmen in Kuching, State Fisheries Department Chief Mr. Abdul Hamid Shukor said 17 fully equipped fishing vessels laden with fish worth about 17 million ringgit were confiscated. Fourteen cases on violation of territorial waters were heard in court. The court imposed a total fine four million ringgit on some of the offenders while others were either sentenced to a two-month or six-month jail term.

Fifteen of the vessels were detained during an operation conducted in the state's exclusive economic zone last July.

Singapore

Government Refuses 10 Vietnamese Boat People

BK2110154691 Hong Kong AFP in English 1226 GMT 21 Oct 91

[Text] Singapore, Oct 21 (AFP)—Ten ailing Vietnamese boat people were back on the open seas after failing to gain admission to Singapore in a complex dispute over resettlement guarantees, officials said Monday.

The Singapore Government, announcing their departure, said it would not accept guarantees for new refugees until third countries honoured past pledges to remove nearly 150 boatpeople currently here.

Meanwhile the U.S. Embassy, which had pressed along with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) for Singapore to admit the boatpeople, expressed "regret" that arrangements could not be made.

A Singapore Home Ministry statement said the Panamanian- registered ship Gaz Channel with the 10 Vietnamese left early Saturday after waiting for four days in the hope that the boatpeople would be allowed to land here.

Diplomatic sources said the vessel was headed towards Bahrain with the boatpeople, who fled Vietnam nearly two months ago and were picked up while drifting in the South China Sea.

Two of the Vietnamese reportedly died before being picked up and the 10 aboard the Gaz Channel were said to be in poor condition. One was admitted briefly in hospital in Singapore.

Sources said the vessel was carrying Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG), which is classified as dangerous cargo. This bars the ship from taking on passengers and means there are life rafts only for the crew in case of trouble.

The case illustrates the continuing compexity of the refugee problem at a time when the boatpeople exodus is in its last stages, with peace in Cambodia near and Vietnam apparently set to normalise ties with the West.

Singapore said it was ready to take the 10 in provided the two governments which guaranteed to resettle them within three months honoured these and past pledges for other refugees which they had "defaulted" on.

The countries were not named but diplomatic sources have identified them as Norway and the Netherlands.

The Home Ministry said both countries backed down from their unconditional guarantees and agreed to remove only those Vietnamese deemed suitable for resettlement. One also refused to renew its pledge on past cases, the statement said.

"It is a matter of regret that these countries have failed to fulfill their written guarantees," the ministry said.

"In view of this situation, the government can no longer accept any new guarantees for any new refugees until the UNHCR and the guaranteeing countries fulfill their existing written obligations and remove all present cases."

Singapore officials say that the 148 refugees in a camp here have all overstayed their three months, with most remaining for more than a year.

Diplomatic sources said the dispute stemmed from the complexities of the Comprehensive Plan of Action (CPA) adopted for the boatpeople which includes screening procedures to determine if they are legitimate refugees.

Singapore had until recently refused to allow screening, while other countries in Asia had balked at taking over the task for the city-state.

The screening was finally begun here a few weeks ago and a decision on the status of each of the 148 was pending when the row over the newly arrived 10 broke, the sources said.

With various countries agreeing to resettle bonafide refugees—the United States put its name to about 100 cases here—the question remained what would happen to those not deemed suitable for resettlement. Washington opposes forcible repatriation to Vietnam.

The UNHCR office in Singapore declined to comment on the case of the 10 boatpeople, referring queries to Geneva. Officials at the Norwegian and Dutch embassies were not available for comment.

A U.S. Embassy spokesman expressed the hope that the UNHCR would be able to work out arrangements to handle the case of the 10 Vietnamese on humanitarian grounds before the Gaz Channel reaches its next port of call.

"We understand the Singapore Government's policies on this issue but nevertheless regret that arrangements could not have been made for the 10 boatpeople to remain in Singapore for processing by the UNHCR," the spokesman said.

Cambodia

Son Sann Interviewed on Elections, IMF Meeting

BK2010151191 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 20 Oct 91

[Interview with Son Sann, president of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front and member of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia, by unidentified VOK correspondent; date, place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] As a representative of Voice of the Khmer [VOK] Radio, I would like to salute and thank Your Excellency Son Sann, president of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front [KPNLF] and member of the Supreme National Council [SNC] of Cambodia, for having permitted this interview before your departure from Bangkok to attend the meeting soon to be held in Paris.

I have learned that your excellency recently led an SNC delegation to participate in the World Bank meeting held in Bangkok, Thailand. Would you please brief our listeners about the meeting and its outcome, which could be beneficial to Cambodia and the Cambodian people.

[Son Sann] I would like to inform the compatriots that the SNC delegation attended the World Bank meeting as a special guest, not as a member of the organization. We did, however, follow the meeting through to its end. We met with leaders of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund and asked them to assist Cambodia in both the immediate and distant future. We asked them to help train Cambodians, who are not used to dealing with large banks. We also asked whether they can start this training now and later improve it. They accepted our request for assistance in training and readjusting the riel after the agreement is signed in Paris to confirm the real existence of the SNC. As our country needs reconstruction, I asked them to help us regulate our monetary and banking system. They also clearly explained that issue for us. In sum, at the meeting we met a lot of people, including the leaders of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. We asked them to help streamline our working system and restore the riel so it can retain the stable value it had in the past. As all compatriots already know, when we were working under Samdech Norodom Sihanouk's leadership, the exchange rate was one U.S. dollar to 35 riels. One dollar continued to be worth 35 riels from 1955 to 1968, but now one dollar is worth more than 1,000 riels. This is why I asked them to help restabilize and redress the value of our riel in an effort to help low income earners overcome their misery. We will do whatever we can to gain the necessary experience to reorganize and stabilize our country in the future.

[Correspondent] Thank you. If I am not mistaken, you will soon attend the last meeting for signing a peace agreement on Cambodia. Can you explain how the peace process will continue after the peace agreement is signed?

[Son Sann] We reexamined and streamlined all the documents at our New York meeting. For example, we have decided that, in the future, the National Assembly should have 120 seats. As such, everything is in order. The four parties in the SNC, the five major countries, and the cochairmen—France and Indonesia—have all agreed, but we still need to meet the other members of the international conference on Cambodia, who met a few years ago, and ask them to endorse the documents as well. If all of them agree at the 21-22 October meeting, then we will sign on 23 October. After the signing, the United Nations will start to gradually send an international peacekeeping force to Cambodia, and we have been longing for this for a long time. When that happens, our compatriots inside the country will certainly regain peace.

As for your question about what we are going to do later, I wish to say that we will, after the meeting and signing, continue to meet within the SNC. We will ask the five major countries and ASEAN to assist in executing the agreement reached. As the agreement requires broad implementation, we should properly apply it. This is what we must pursue in Paris.

[Correspondent] The Cambodian people are expecting to exercise their rights in free elections, and the KPNLF will become a political party without fail. As KPNLF president, do you hope to win in the Cambodian elections?

[Son Sann] I cannot give a definite answer to your question, because victory or defeat depends on the electors. If the voters realize that the KPNLF has been working effectively and has the intention, as indicated by our front's name, to genuinely help build our country in keeping with democracy, freedom, human rights, and religion, and if the compatriots rely on us, we will continue to serve you. As you already know, we have been serving you, meaning we have been serving the nation and have been doing all we can for its benefit. You are the ones who will judge our capability, and I wish to abstain from saying whether we will win. You are all my masters. If you, my master, trust me and want me to continue working, please express your confidence in me through the ballot box. If you think that we have not been working correctly and effectively, it is up to you—but you should not forget that, at the elections, the compatriots will be truly free, and nobody will know who is voting for whom. The elections will be secret, so you can vote freely; nobody can force you to vote for our front. You can vote for whichever party you prefer.

[Correspondent] Before concluding, do you have any recommendations to make to our listeners?

[Son Sann] I would like to inform the compatriots that I just returned from the border, where I saw hundreds of miserable and starving families coming from the country's interior to search for rice. Some left their families inside the country, and some came from distant regions, such as Oddar Meanchey, Siem Reap Province. There was truly great misery, and I did not know what to do to help. I dared not ask them. I simply distributed rice collected from those who had extra supplies. Our compatriots in Site 2 camp were very generous, as they gave to those unfortunate compatriots from their extra rice supplies. Seeing the misery, I appealed to international organizations to give aid directly to the people. As far as I know, the international community is prepared to help. I have suggested that they give aid to the compatriots living in the remote areas as well, because they are suffering terribly. I asked the World Bank to also assist our compatriots inside the country.

I pray to the gods to help save our compatriots from their suffering, because the people are really starving. I ask all leaders to stop holding a grudge against one another and exchanging criticism. As for myself, my only fault is that I—seeing the people's suffering—cannot restrain myself from launching an appeal for assistance for our compatriots.

VOK Reports Beginning of Conference in Paris

BK2210060691 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 22 Oct 91

[Report by station correspondent Pol Ham from Paris; date not given—recorded]

[Text] The Paris International Conference on Cambodia [PICC] began on Monday, 21 October, at 1100 at the Kleber conference hall with the meeting of the conference's Coordinating Committee. The signing ceremony is expected to take place on 23 October 1991 following a report that the Vietnamese delegation has decided to drop its demand for amendments to certain points of the agreement reached in New York last month.

The meeting of the PICC's Coordinating Committee opened under the chairmanship of cochairmen Jean David Levitte of France and Wiryono Sastrohandoyo of Indonesia. After opening the meeting, Jean David Levitte said this was the Coordinating Committee's eighth meeting since its first seven sessions at the PICC. Mr. Levitte said that everything had been solved in New York and that the signing would certainly take place on 23 October. Mr. Levitte said a solution to the Cambodian problem had been achieved after two years, two months, and 22 days, ending the problems in various countries in Indochina. This was a good thing when compared to the existing problems in El Salvador and Afghanistan.

Mr. Sastrohandoyo of Indonesia did not say much, only giving a few words of thanks. After his comments, Mr. Levitte specified that Vietnam had proposed amending some points; however, after consultations with the cochairmen and the UN Secretary General's representative, Vietnam dropped its proposal. Mr. Levitte said: The signing can take place, because the Coordinating Committee has already reached an agreement. The actual signing by the heads of the delegations from the 19 countries is all that remains to be done.

According to Mr. Levitte, there will be no plenary session on 22 October, only bilateral or multi-party discussions. Many documents will be signed in various languages, namely English, French, Chinese, Russian, and Khmer.

On 21 October, in addition to the Coordinating Committee's meeting, there was a meeting of Cambodian parties to decide on the documents written in the Khmer language.

The PICC meeting coincides with reports saying that troops of the side propped up by Vietnam in Phnom Penh have violated the cease-fire agreement in many places in western Cambodia's Battambang Province. In another development, on the morning of Monday, 21 October, the State Secretary of India's Foreign Ministry paid a courtesy call on His Excellency Son Sann, president of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front [KPNLF] and member of the Cambodian Supreme National Council, at his residence in Paris in the presence of Ieng Muli, KPNLF general secretary.

Rebel Radio Welcomes First Group of UN Forces

BK2210044891 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2330 GMT 21 Oct 91

[Station editorial: "The Cambodian People Welcome the UN Security Council's Resolution on Dispatching the First Group of UN Forces to Cambodia to Prepare for a Comprehensive Supervision in Cambodia"]

[Text] On 16 October, the UN Security Council [UNSC] unanimously adopted a resolution on the dispatch of the first group of UN forces in the United Nations Advance Mission in Cambodia [UNAMIC] as proposed by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, chairman of Cambodia's Supreme National Council [SNC].

According to this resolution, the United Nations will immediately send this mission to Cambodia after the comprehensive agreement is signed in Paris on 23 October 1991. The UNSC has also prepared to send this mission's second group to Cambodia at the end of this year.

According to the draft of the comprehensive agreement, this UN mission will conduct a comprehensive supervision in Cambodia, including the cease-fire and the cessation of foreign military aid to Cambodia, in particular, the total withdrawal of Vietnamese aggressor troops and forces from Cambodia. It will also ensure that the withdrawn Vietnamese troops and forces do not return to Cambodia.

The Cambodian people warmly welcome and hail this UNSC resolution. The Cambodian people are ready to cooperate with the UN forces to correctly and justly implement the comprehensive agreement, and particularly to see to it that all Vietnamese aggressor forces are withdrawn from Cambodia so that the Cambodian people will enjoy their rights and freedoms in freely voting in the elections and deciding their own destiny by themselves.

As is known to the international community, the Cambodian problem was caused by the fact that Vietnam sent over 250,000 invading troops into Cambodia—an independent and sovereign state and a full-fledged member of the United Nations—at the end of 1978 in an attempt to annex and turn Cambodia into Vietnamese territory in line with its Indochinese Federation strategy.

Until now, despite the fact that a comprehensive agreement will be signed soon, Vietnam has maintained tens of thousands of its aggressor troops in Cambodia. This figure does not include the over 1 million Vietnamese settlers in Cambodia.

For the past several years, Vietnam has carried out its plan to hide and implant all categories of its aggressor forces in Cambodia in various forms in preparation for destroying the agreement solving the Cambodian problem and to sabotage and undermine the Cambodian national forces, thus giving it a pretext to return to Cambodia.

We, the Cambodian people, expect the UN forces in Cambodia to help seek ways to sweep all the Vietnamese aggressor forces from Cambodia. Only when there are no more Vietnamese aggressor forces in Cambodia can our country enjoy genuine peace, stability, national reconciliation, and national accord. Only when there are no more Vietnamese aggressor forces can Cambodia become genuinely independent, sovereign, neutral, and nonaligned, and the Cambodian people enjoy genuine rights and freedoms in deciding their own destiny by themselves, thus contributing to peace, security, stability, and development in this region as a whole.

We wish the UN forces total success in carrying out their mission in Cambodia, thus enhancing the UN international prestige even more highly and contributing to peace, security, and stability throughout the entire world.

VODK Warns of Anti-Peace SRV 'Maneuvers'

BK2010103991 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2330 GMT 19 Oct 91

[Station editorial: "We Must Unite and Carry Out All Our Tasks More Actively To Push For Proper Implementation of the Agreement on a Comprehensive Solution"]

[Text] Through the persistent struggle of our Cambodian people, our tripartite Cambodian national resistance forces, and those of all Cambodian nationalists inside and outside the country, along with the international community's assistance, the process to resolve Vietnam's war of aggression in Cambodia has achieved its goal. The agreement on a comprehensive solution will be solemnly signed on 23 October. This agreement requires the Vietnamese aggressors to withdraw all their troops and aggressor forces from Cambodia and let the Cambodian people determine their destiny through free and democratic elections, to be organized by the United Nations and the Supreme National Council [SNC], headed by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk.

This is a historic victory for our Cambodian people's national liberation struggle, but this victory is only a preliminary one—meaning that we have a comprehensive agreement requiring that Vietnam end its war of aggression and occupation in Cambodia to let the country again enjoy peace, independence, sovereignty, and the right to self-determination and territorial integrity. The fact is that the Hanoi Vietnamese have not yet given up their ambition to annex Cambodia and include it in their Indochinese federation.

Vietnam has carried out all kinds of maneuvers to prevent the agreement documents from being correctly implemented. In particular, Vietnam has carried out the maneuver of maintaining in power the regime propped up by Vietnam so that Vietnam can continue to hide all kinds of its aggressor forces in Cambodia in order:

1. To create problems to prevent the comprehensive agreement from being correctly and meticulously implemented; and

2. To continue carrying out activities to split Cambodian national unity, prevent Cambodians from being reconciled, and incite Cambodians to continue quarreling among themselves so Vietnam has a pretext to come back and continue its aggression and occupation of Cambodia.

This is the issue facing us. How should we solve this problem in order to properly implement the comprehensive agreement so our country will be completely liberated?

There are many tasks, most importantly:

1. To raise even higher the banner of great national union by not discriminating against white, black, blue, or red, or the past. Unite under the Sihanouk-led SNC, which is Cambodia's legitimate state organization and the sole source of power.

2. To unite and go on the offensive in dismantling and dissolving to the maximum every type of the Vietnamese aggressors' state authorities in villages, communes, districts, and provinces so that Vietnam can no longer hide its aggressor forces in Cambodia, and set up national councils in villages, communes, districts, and provinces instead. Only with village, commune, district, and provincial national councils can the people be liberated and have the right and freedom to earn a living, freely vote, and have genuine democracy.

Only by carrying out the above tasks well and efficiently can the good and correct implementation of the comprehensive agreement be promoted and can our Cambodian nation and race be completely liberated from the Vietnamese aggressors.

Sihanouk Invites Former Thai Minister for Visit

BK2110070291 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 21 Oct 91

[Text] Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, chairman of the Cambodian Supreme National Council [SNC], has invited Sitthi Sawetsila, former Thai foreign minister, to visit Cambodia next month.

Sitthi Sawetsila met with Samdech Norodom Sihanouk when he visited China as a guest of the Chinese Institute of Foreign Affairs in Beijing. Sitthi said that Samdech Norodom Sihanouk thanked him for his role in finding a solution to the Cambodian problem. He added that Samdech Norodom Sihanouk invited him to visit Cambodia in November.

Samdech Norodom Sihanouk and all Cambodian SNC members are in Paris for talks and for signing the final agreement to end the war in Cambodia with representatives of the United Nations and the 18 countries who are members of the Paris international conference on Cambodia. The conference is due to start on 21 October.

VONADK Comments on National Union Policy

BK2210034291 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 21 Oct 91

[Text] Cadres and male and female combatants of our Cambodian national resistance forces in all localities throughout Cambodia have grasped and effectively implemented the policy of great national union without having a bias against any political trends or past deeds.

The comrades-in-arms have never done anything to harm the people. They realize that great national union constitutes both a political strength and a concrete force. It is a driving force for an effective implementation of the peace agreement.

The people have benefited from this. As a matter of fact, in every village, either in the liberated zone or semiliberated zone, our comrades-in-arms have helped dig water wells to solve the water problem for the people and have assisted them in the production drive. They have also promoted their health and have wholeheartedly given them medical treatment.

Our comades-in-arms, cadres and male and female combatants of the Cambodian national resistance forces pledge to continue implementing the policy of great national union even more effectively to enable the peace agreement to be implemented effectively.

Chea Sim Voices Concern Over UN Monitoring

OW2110141391 Tokyo KYODO in English 1359 GMT 21 Oct 91

[Text] Phnom Penh, Oct. 21 KYODO—Chea Sim, chairman of Cambodia's National Assembly, expressed apprehensions on Monday over United Nations activities to monitor a cease-fire in the country after the four warring factions reach a peace agreement in Paris this week.

In an interview with KYODO NEWS SERVICE and other Japanese news organizations, Chea Sim said he wonders whether the U.N. would send officials to monitor the dismantling of armed forces in the mine-ridden mountainous areas currently occupied by the tripartite guerrilla factions fighting the Vietnamese-backed Phnom Penh government.

The Paris Peace Conference on Cambodia, co-chaired by France and Indonesia, will open in the French capital on Wednesday to help end the 13-year-old conflict in the country.

Following the signing of the peace accord, the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) will be sent to Cambodia to help the 12-member Supreme National Council run the country during a transitional period until the establishment of a new government.

Under an agreement reached by the four warring forces in late August, they would reduce each of their armies by 70 percent and send the remaining troops to barracks under U.N. supervision.

Chea Sim pledged that the Phnom Penh government will keep its commitment to reduce its military strength by 70 percent, but added that he fears that the guerrilla factions might conceal weapons and ammunitions.

On the timing of a general election in Cambodia, Chea Sim predicted that it would be held at the end of 1992 at the earliest.

Chea Sim was elected chief of the ruling Cambodian People's Party, formally known as the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea, to replace Heng Samrin at a two-day extraordinary party congress last week.

Asked about the party's decision at the congress to adopt a multiparty political system in Cambodia, Chea Sim did not specify when the country would introduce such a system.

Expressing strong expectations of Japanese help in reconstructing Cambodia, Chea Sim said that Japan's role in rehabilitating the country would be very important.

In Tokyo, Vice Foreign Minister Hisashi Owada said at a press conference that Japan will hold a preparatory meeting in Tokyo by the year's end for an international conference on multinational aid for Cambodian reconstruction.

Japan plans to hold such international talks after the peace accord is reached.

KPNLF, Phnom Penh Troops Clash in Northwest

Guerillas Issue Communique

BK2110121291 Hong Kong AFP in English 1208 GMT 21 Oct 91

[Text] Bangkok, Oct 21 (AFP)—A Cambodian guerrilla faction reported fierce fighting in northwestern Cambodia Monday as an international conference opened in Paris to put the final seal on the country's peace agreement.

The non-communist Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF) said Phnom Penh Government forces shelled several of their positions north of Route Five.

It also said 200 Phnom Penh troops, supported by heavy artillery, had attacked positions near the town of Svay Chek, taking at least one of them.

Thai military officials confirmed that there was fighting inside Cambodia and said some shells had landed on the Thai side of the border near the Cambodian border town of Poipet.

The KPNLF in a communique described the attacks as "well-coordinated and large scale" and said at least two KPNLF soldiers had been wounded.

The guerrilla group said Phnom Penh Government forces began shelling their positions early Sunday morning and called on the Paris conference to "use all possible means" to stop Phnom Penh forces' attacks "which could torpedo the peace efforts."

Residents in the Thai border town of Aranyaprathet said they heard shelling clearly on Sunday and Monday.

The KPNLF dismissed a Thai newspaper report which quoted a Phnom Penh Government officer as saying the fighing erupted over a trade dispute between the two groups.

"The question is why (Phnom Penh) troops make war on the fields while (Phnom Penh Government Prime Minister) Hun Sen talks peace at the conference table in Paris?" the faction asked in their communique.

'Heavy Fighting' Continues

BK2210105691 Hong Kong AFP in English 1047 GMT 22 Oct 91

[Text] Bangkok, Oct 22 (AFP)—A Cambodian guerrilla faction said Tuesday heavy fighting was continuing in the northwest of the country on the eve of the signing of an international agreement to end the country's 13-year war.

The fighting began on the weekend when Phnom Penh Government forces shelled positions of the non-communist Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF) guerrilla group, a KPNLF military official said.

"We are still analysing the reason they're doing this now, but it seems they want to expand their territory as much as possible before the agreement, to cut our political base," said KPNLF official Ok Serei Sopheak.

A well-informed source monitoring developments in Cambodia confirmed that fighting had taken place but played down the intensity of the clashes.

"I don't think the fighting will have any bearing on the signing of the peace agreement in Paris," he said.

After the initial shelling about 200 Phnom Penh Government forces attacked KPNLF positions near the town of Svay Chek on Monday, taking one position. In subsequent fighting the KPNLF retook the position and the two armies were "face to face" in the area on Tuesday, the guerrilla official said.

One KPNLF soldier was killed and three wounded while five Phnom Penh Government soldiers were killed and three wounded, according to the KPNLF.

A woman civilian has also been killed in the fighting, the KPNLF said.

People living along the border in Thailand said they had heard intermittent heavy artillery shelling since Saturday night.

Earlier this week a Phnom Penh officer stationed on the border said the fighting had erupted over a dispute involving trade routes between the district town of Sisophon and the Thai border.

Although the KPNLF has dismissed this explanation, a Western source monitoring Cambodia said it could be partly true.

Mines, Malaria Endanger Returning Refugees

BK2010073691 Hong Kong AFP in English 0711 GMT 20 Oct 91

[Text] Bangkok, Oct 20 (AFP)—Conditions are appalling in northwest Cambodia areas controlled by Khmer Rouge guerrillas, and many refugees will die if forced to live there, said two Western journalists who visited the area recently.

"I've never seen conditions so bad, in Cambodia or anywhere else," said one of the journalists who has travelled extensively in areas controlled by both the non-communist guerrillas and the Phnom Penh government.

"If thousands of people are moved in there from the refugee camps a lot of them are going to die," he said. "They're going to get blown up by landmines or die of malaria."

The Khmer Rouge said recently they wanted to move some 43,000 refugees from Site 8, the camp they currently administer across the border in Thailand, to the area the journalists visited near the border in northwestern Battambang province.

The move caused alarm among relief agencies working in the refugee camps, and prompted the United Nations to call on Thailand to use troops to surround the camp to stop refugees being taken back against their will.

The Khmer Rouge leadership has formally denied it is making arrangements for a forced repatriation of refugees under its control, but relief officials say many people in Khmer Rouge- administered camps are still very worried.

According to the two journalists, there are about 10,000 people currently living in the area, most of them relatives of Khmer Rouge soldiers.

During the war the area was occupied by Vietnamese troops, who constructed extensive fortifications there and laid thousands of landmines.

Since the Khmer Rouge reoccupied the area about 450 people, most of them civilians, have stepped on mines and been maimed, a Khmer Rouge official said.

"There are mines everywhere. It was really depressing, much worse than anything I've seen before," said one of the journalists, who last year made a five-week, 700-kilometer trip on foot through guerrilla-occupied areas of the country.

"It is very different to what you see in a normal Cambodian village. There's no reign of terror, but people are subdued and just getting on with surviving," the journalist said.

"It was very quiet. You don't get the normal scenes in Cambodian villages with women giggling at the foreign visitors and kids running about playing. No one seemed to be having much fun," he said.

"Even in very poor villages I've been to before, there is a feeling of community life, a market and so on, but here there was no impression of that. People seemed to be isolated, on their own, just surviving," one of the journalists said.

"Most of the people are women, children or amputees. Every able- bodied man appeared to be a soldier," he said.

People were allocated a plot of land and given a stick with which to clear landmines before planting crops, they said, adding that houses were made out of bamboo and thatch or old ammunition cases.

The Khmer Rouge did not supply the civilians with food, and supplies appeared to be meager, the journalists said.

"War veterans, most of them amputees, get one set of clothes and one blanket a year, on Veteran's Day," one of them said. Medical conditions were also very grim, he added.

"There was one small hospital with no walls set in the middle of a minefield. To get to it you had to walk along a narrow path. Patients were lying on wooden beds and a lot of them seemed to be dying of malaria. I was really shocked," he said.

The journalist added that: "Khmer Rouge officials said they did not have enough medicine, but according to people who know about these things the Khmer Rouge army has more than enough medecine, but it seems their civilians aren't getting it."

"The civilians we saw are the Khmer Rouge's own people. The Khmer Rouge are not trying to win them over. They are not trying to impress them, they don't need to, and they don't need to take care of them," he charged.

Some people had radios and were free to listen to what they wanted, the journalists said.

The journalist said that many people were tuned in to the non- communist guerrilla's radio station. A Khmer Rouge official told the journalists that people complained that important news about the Cambodian peace process was often late on Khmer Rouge radio.

Refugees Fear Poverty From Forced Repatriation

BK2110024391 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 21 Oct 91 p 5

[By James Pringle]

[Text] Site 8—The Khmer Rouge commander known as "Mit" (Comrade) Ni Kan came into this vast refugee camp on the Thai-Cambodian border just inside Thailand late last month and was appalled when he saw Cambodians under Khmer Rouge control reading Western newspapers and decadent Western books.

"He snatched a book from one refugee and flung it aside with a snarl," said one foreign relief worker.

Late last month, Ni Kan—a hardliner who has command of the Cambodian side of the border near Site 8—suddenly changed the civilian leadership at the camp, which houses 43,000 refugees, and replaced it with a 5-man military-dominated team.

The old camp leaders were detained inside Cambodia.

Used to a relatively liberal, though still Khmer Rouge, camp leadership in recent years, people here waited anxiously to see what would happen.

Under the terms of a United Nations-sponsored peace agreement ending 13 years of war to be signed on Wednesday in Paris, the UN is responsible for the repatriation of all 340,000 Cambodian refugees living in camps along the Thai border.

They were to have freedom of choice to go where they wanted, even back to their old homes, and foreign experts have been looking for available land with the use of a satellite.

But then came the order from the new camp leaders to prepare to move to Phnom Proek, a poor, mud and thatch village inside Cambodia just four miles southeast of here which is well known to camp residents, who view it with dread.

"No one wants to go and we are all afraid," said Mde Sopheap, a 37-year-old woman. "There are many landmines in that area, and malaria. I want to go back to my old home in Kompong Chanang to find my family."

Others said quietly they wanted to return to Battambang province or Phnom Penh "with the United Nations."

For the past two weeks, UN and other relief agency officials have stayed overnight in the camp, patrollig the labyrinth of alleys of thatched huts in the dark to make sure no coercion was used.

"It would be so easy for 100 or 200 armed Khmer Rouge to come in at night and drive the people across the border," said one official, bleary-eyed after being up all night.

"On Friday night, there was bright moonlight, and a rumour swept the camp the refugees would be moved. People panicked, but in the event nothing happened."

In a rare interview late last week, Mr. Long Norin, a senior Khmer Rouge official at the organisation's HQ north of here, said Ni Kan was not acting on orders of the Khmer Rouge leadership, and had "embarrassed" the organisation's figurehead leader, Khieu Samphan, who is to join reperesentatives of the Phnom Penh government in the peace signing this week.

He said refugees were free to return to any area of Cambodia they chose. Those who had ordered otherwise, he said, "did not know anything—they came straight from the battlefield to the camp."

But, perhaps ominously, he said the Khmer Rouge leadership had had letters from many refugees "asking" to go to areas already prepared for them by the Khmer Rouge.

Yesterday, the situation here seemed somewhat more relaxed, though people are still nervous.

The two markets permitted by the old administration were open, and doing a busy trade.

When two correspondents attempted to walk up the road leading past the camp towards the mountains and Phnom Proek, however, they were turned back by an armed Thai guard.

The registration by the UN of refugees wanting to return to Cambodia under the UN programme was well underway.

"We think the problem is not necessarily over and we will continue to monitor the situation closely," said a UN official.

But people here still believe ultimately that they will be repatriated by the Khmer Rouge, and privately foreign relief agency officials agree with them.

Yet the situation could become even more serious.

Relief agency officials say the likely forced repatriation of all 340,000 refugees in half a dozen camps could happen in coming months and, if it does, it will be a catastrophe.

The two non-communist resistance groups, the American-backed Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF) and the one controlled by Prince Norodom Sihanouk, the former monarch of Cambodia, would also like to move people into areas they hold inside the country in order to have a political base for elections scheduled for 1993.

"There are strong indications they wish to do so," said one relief official.

"If it happens, it will be a tragedy, a major disaster, and people will die, especially small children."

The officials say there is a "total lack of infrastructure" in the areas into which people may be pushed.

"They are malaria-infested, there is insufficient water, and virtually no medical facilities or schools," said one anxious official.

"But worst of all no work has begun on clearing the tens of thousands of landmines throughout the area.

"If each faction goes ahead with its own repatriation plan, there will be no point to the UN repatriation effort."

Noted another official:

"The factions seem to have their own plans to keep control of their people pending elections.

"What it could mean is the division of Cambodia into different zones—it will become another Lebanon."

Some relief officials say that only strong political pressure by Western governments on the two noncommunist groups can prevent this from happening.

But similar pressure on the Khmer Rouge is, in the long run, likely to be unavailing, they add.

Khmer Rouge Hardliner Seen as Source of Problems

BK1910020391 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 19 Oct 91 p 2

[By James Pringle]

[Text] Thai-Cambodian border—A senior Khmer Rouge official said yesterday that Cambodian refugees at camps in Thailand must return to Cambodia voluntarily and not be forced home.

He hinted strongly that a Khmer Rouge hardliner, who has threatened to force thousands of Cambodians at Site 8 camp back to Cambodia against their will, is a maverick.

He indicated the hardliner, known as Ni Kan, had embarrassed senior Khmer Rouge officials almost on the eve of the signing of formal Cambodian peace accords in Paris next week.

Long Norin, chief of protocol in the Khmer Rouge foreign ministry, said it is not clear whether or not Ni Kan was acting alone or at the behest of other Khmer Rouge leaders.

"This could cause many complications," Long Norin said in an interview at the headquarters of the Khmer Rouge near Ban Nong Pru on the Thai-Cambodian border.

"The people in the camps must return to Kampuchea voluntarily, not by force."

But he said that Khmer Rouge leaders could do little to solve the problem, which is in defiance of the UN repatriation programme, because it is in an area controlled by another Khmer Rouge group.

Ni Kan, a senior Khmer Rouge militry commander, is the younger brother of Son Sen, defence minister in the Khmer Rouge government.

But Long Norin said in an interview: "It seems Son Sen did not approve of the action."

Son Sen is one of the Khmer Rouge representatives on the Supreme National Council (SNC) which will represent Cambodia's sovereignty in the run-up to UN supervised elections after the accords are signed on Wednesday.

The camps' former civilian leaders were called across the border into Cambodia on September 30, ostensibly for a meeting. They were detained and a new committee of military men was appointed for Site 8.

But, after protests at the committee's plans to send camp inmates across the border, UN officials were this week able to begin pre- registration of Cambodians in the camps regarding where they want to be resettled when the war ends.

The committee feared that the 43,000 people in the camps would escape their control and it wanted them to cross the border into areas it holds to form a political base.

Although Long Norin's stance on voluntary repatriation seems sincere, confirming earlier reports of hard and more moderate lines in the Khmer Rouge, there is no means to be sure.

The Khmer Rouge, under whose rule up to one million Cambodians died, remains a secretive organisation virtually impenetrable by outsiders.

Relief agency officials said in Aranyaprathet last night that the atmosphere at Site 8 was "a little less tense but we are not out of it yet."

"This is not authorised but it is being carried out by hardliners just out of the jungle who are out of control," one official said.

Long Norin said: "People say Ni Kan seems more moderate now. Anywhere they want to go they can go. We hope this continues."

Land Disputes, Distrust Said Hindering Peace

BK2110134491 Hong Kong AFP in English 1132 GMT 21 Oct 91

[By Charles-Antoine de Nerciat]

[Text] Thmar Puok, Cambodia, Oct 21 (AFP)—As they trudged along the muddy trail, the non-communist Cambodian guerrilla officials glared furiously at Khmer Rouge guerrillas distributing rice by the roadside.

Not a word was exchanged between the two groups, belonging to factions allied in Cambodia's war in which the Khmer Rouge has dominated a guerrilla coalition battling the Phnom Penh Government since the radical Marxist group's ouster by the Vietnamese 13 years ago.

"Friends," snorted a woman in the group heading for this stronghold of the non-communist Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF) just east of the Thai border.

Three days later, on Sunday, fighting broke out near here between KPNLF troops and government soldiers.

A KPNLF statement described the clashes as "a blatant violation of the ceasefire" by Phnom Penh, "one day before the opening of the Paris conference" at the end of which a peace accord will be signed Wednesday.

But a Phnom Penh officer depicted them more soberly as a dispute over trade routes leading to markets on the border with Thailand.

Such situations, which occur daily as more than 20 years of war and revolution come to an end, illustrate the scale of the task to restore some semblance of normality here.

Diplomats are cautiously optimistic that the Paris agreement will stick, just as the ceasefire which came into force in May has basically held.

But they agree that the United Nations is to face a daunting task as it embarks on its biggest ever peacekeeping mission in Cambodia, preparing itself to supervise the demobilisation of tens of thousands of soldiers, oversee the electoral process and organise the repatriation of 340,000 refugees from Thailand.

This mass exodus is to take place in a country where hundreds of thousands of mines have been laid over the years and where health and sanitation conditions are at best primitive.

There is also near starvation in many parts of Cambodia following a drought last year and floods this year. The food situation may, however, ease somewhat in coming months as experts predict a good rice harvest.

Cambodia's problems as its uneasy peace begins are being made worse by the lingering distrust between the factions, diplomats say.

KPNLF Deputy Military Commander Pan Tai remarked in an interview last week at his headquarters, just across from Thailand, that there may have been a rapprochement between factional political leaders but not so far between their military commanders.

"Political leaders can work things out among themselves," said the French-and U.S.-trained officer in reference to ground-breaking compromises by the factions which paved the way for the Paris peace accord.

"But, it's going to be harder for the military people. I don't know Tie Banh (Phnom Penh's defense minister). I've never met him, and I've never met Son Sen (the Khmer Rouge guerrilla chief) either," he said.

Illustrating this distrust are plans by the factions for their own repatriation programmes outside the UN plan to retain a firm grip on refugees presently in camps they control on Thailand's border with Cambodia.

Aid workers have warned that such plans by the Chinese-backed Khmer Rouge, who emptied Cambodia's cities during their four-year rule, and the other two factions could result in carnage, with refugees returning to areas infested with landmines and malaria.

There are also fears of a "Lebanonisation" of Cambodia, as each faction holds uncompromisingly onto its own areas and population base.

Clearly the Khmer Rouge, which controls the gem-rich Pailin area across from Thailand's southern border and has granted lucrative logging concessions to Thai companies in other parts of Cambodia, is set on that track, diplomats say.

"We're happy with the agreement being signed this week in Paris," explained Ros Sary, a Khmer Rouge soldier met on the border near here.

"But, if there are still Vietnamese in Cambodia, we have to fight on till we liberate the country," continued Ros.

"Until that time comes, our people will not go back to their villages. They will stay there where they are," he said.

Despite Vietnam's September 1989 announcement that its entire expeditionary corps had left, the Khmer Rouge insists that Hanoi troops are still stationed in Cambodia.

"The Vietnamese aggressors continue to keep hidden forces in Cambodia for the purpose of spying and subversion with the aim to sabotage Cambodian national solidarity and to threaten Cambodians when there is a general election," Khmer Rouge radio said Monday.

Army Party Delegate Addresses National Congress

BK2210032491 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1200 GMT 21 Oct 91

[Armed Forces' regional party address, read by Major General Tha Thanchan, deputy chief of General Political Department of the Armed Forces, at the extraordinary national congress of the Cambodian People's Party in Phnom Penh; date not given—recorded]

[Summary from poor reception] On behalf of the regional party of the armed forces, I would like to offer a warm welcome to the congress, which has produced the party's political program and amended the statute in order to adjust the party's policy in line with the situation in this new stage.

During the past years, under the clear-sighted leadership of the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party and with the care given by the authorities and people in all localities, the Cambodian People's Armed Forces [CPAF] have developed both quantitatively and qualitatively and have made immense sacrifices in their tasks of fighting against the enemies and defending the national achievements and our people's peaceful life.

"So far, our armed forces have become the sole factor that has effectively prevented a recurrence of the past catastrophe."

During its congress held in October, the army regional party representatives from all localities throughout the country thoroughly studied and discussed the contents of the party platform and the amended statute. "The entire congress fully agreed with all contents of the two documents, particularly with all the new points defined in the documents." We are of the opinion that the party's political program and the amended statute are in line with the real situation and meet the requirements for national reconciliation and the people's aspiration. This is another effort to rally the entire great national union for the defense of the national achievements and the construction of the country in line with the party's motto of independence, peace, freedom, democracy, and social progress; and to maintain the party's political leadership.

We pledge to unite with the people around the CPP leadership, to turn ourselves into the combined forces of the nation, to continue striving to successfully implement the political program approved by the congress, and to strengthen and expand national unity and international solidarity, particularly solidarity with all peace-loving forces in a contribution to preserving world peace.

We would like to voice our support for the party's political platform and amended statute and the address by His Excellency Hun Sen. We vow to contribute to the coming election campaign, defend the party leadership and state authorities, prevent a recurrence of the past catastrophe, and join in the work of national development.

Lao Party Sends Greetings

BK2110063691 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0451 GMT 21 Oct 91

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK October 21—The Cambodian People's Party Central Committee has received [words indistinct] congress from the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee.

The message described the congress an important event in the political life of the CCP, as it has opened amid the Cambodian issue being to be solved globally by a political means consistent with the aspiration of the entire Cambodian people, who want peace and national reconcilliation. [sentence as received]

The message was convinced that the congress will contribute to national development of Cambodia, for peace and the just interest of its people.

Indonesia

Suharto Urges Ruling Party To Promote 'Openness'

BK2110155891 Hong Kong AFP in English 1052 GMT 21 Oct 91

[Text] Jakarta, Oct 21 (AFP)—Indonesian President Suharto has called on the ruling Golkar Party to develop itself towards promoting openness in all sectors and at all levels of society.

"This present era and the next one are eras of openness, in terms of horizon, ideology, politics, socio-culture as well as economy ... and it is towards that, that we should develop Golkar in the future," Suharto told a gathering to commemorate Golkar's 27th anniversary here late Sunday.

Openness should be at all levels, at state level as well as within the society itself, added Suharto, who chairs the party's Council of Patrons.

There have been growing calls for more political openness in the past two years with proponents saying that the government should allow greater expression of differences of opinion and hold a wider dialogue with the people when setting policies.

Suharto's government has stressed that Indonesia has its own brand of democracy, one where every decision is reached through concensus and where straightforward opposition is unknown.

Golkar, Suharto's main political vehicle, is the largest of Indonesia's three recognized political parties.

The two others are the Moslem-based United Development Party (PPP) and the Indonesian Democratic Party (PDI), which is an alliance between Christian and nationalist forces.

"Golkar must maintain its existence and image as an organization for openness ... Golkar must win the support of the people through the general elections in a democratic way," Suharto said.

Golkar has won all previous elections since 1967 and in the last polls in 1987 it clinched 73 percent of the total votes, winning 299 of the 400 contested parliamentary seats. The military, who do not vote, are automatically alloted 100 seats.

The next poll, set for June 9, will be the fifth since Suharto rose to power in 1966 and precedes presidential elections in March 1993. The 70-year-old leader has not stated whether or not he will run for another five-year term in office.

Political analysts said that while Golkar is widely expected to win the elections again, a more telling factor would be its share of the vote, and anything less that the 1987 level would reflect the leadership capability as well as its popularity.

The party is led by Wahono, a close confidante of Suharto, but as chief of the Council of Patrons, the president has the final say in all matters.

Sunday's commemoration had been preceded by Golkar's three-day annual congress of party officials from all over the country.

Suharto To Raise Funds To Create Islamic Bank

BK2110111391 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0936 GMT 21 Oct 91

[Text] Jakarta, Oct. 21 (ANTARA)—President Suharto is scheduled to invite Muslim businessmen and public figures from West Java to the Bogor Presidential Palace on November 3, during which he will raise funds for the initial capital of an interest-free Islamic bank, Bank Muammalat Islam (BMI), it was announced here Monday.

Speaking to newsmen after calling on the president at the Bina Graha Presidential Office here, West Java Governor Yogie S. Memet said the head of state had told him that several Muslim businessmen had promised to help raise funds of about 63 billion rupiahs [Rp.] as the initial capital of the bank.

The president hoped that the Bogor meeting would yield at least funds of 37 billion rupiahs, Yogie added. (one U.S. dollar: Rp. 1960).

During the call on President Suharto, Yogie was accompanied by Edie Yoso, the head of the Bogor District, Sumarno, the head of the Karawang District, and the mayor of Bogor, Suratman.

Quoting the president, Yogie expresed the hope that the funds would not only be collected from the Muslim businessmen but also from the Muslim public figures and civil servants as well.

The governor also said that even the general public would be able to be the shareholders of the BMI as the price of the bank's share was only Rp. 1,000 each.

Answering a question on the number of businessmen to be invited to the Bogor meeting, Governor Yogie said that he did not know exactly so far the number as arrangements for the event were still underway.

The establishment of the interest-free Islamic bank was initiated by the Indonesian Council of Ulemas (MUI) through the setting up of a team led by Rahmat Saleh, former minister of trade.

Minister Says PRC, SRV No Longer Threats

BK2110115291 Jakarta MERDEKA in Indonesian 11 Oct 91 pp 1, 11

[Excerpt] Jakarta, Thursday, MERDEKA—Indonesia has renounced its perception of "threats from the north" and has abandoned the idea of establishing an ASEAN defense or security pact. Sudomo, coordinating minister for politics and security, made the remarks in a lecture before a number of prospective Indonesian diplomats at a Foreign Affairs Department building in Kebayoran Baru, Jakarta on Thursday morning.

According to Sudomo, there indeed existed the so-called past perception about "threats from the north," particularly from the communist PRC and Vietnam, which were initially considered warlike nations. However, this perception has long since disappeared. According to Sudomo, the PRC is not strong enough to expand southward, and the fear of Vietnam has also disappeared.

The coordinating minister for politics and security added that all sides are adhering to the principles of the Afro-Asian Conference in Bandung under which a country is not allowed to interfere in the internal affairs of another country.

In short, Indonesia no longer fears any external aggression, rather, the country fears an economic threat. According to Sudomo, an economic failure would be more dangerous, because it would lead to domestic instability. An economic failure could appear in the form of a failed development program or an income disparity.

Similarly, the idea of establishing an ASEAN defense pact has been abandoned, because such a pact would in turn create a sense of distrust similar to the one created by the Warsaw Pact or NATO.

Indeed, a problem will arise if a friendly country is attacked and Indonesia deems it necessary to defend that country. Sudomo asserted that we should turn to bilateral cooperation under such circumstances. [passage omitted]

State Protests EC Polyester Antidumping Tax

BK2110105691 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0907 GMT 21 Oct 91

[Text] Jakarta, Oct 21 (OANA-ANTARA)—Indonesia has protested the European Community's plan to impose a residual anti-dumping tax on its polyester import from Indonesia, asserting that it will be unjust.

The profit margin gained by Indonesian exporters from the sales of polyester to the EC did not exceed five percent and now the EC was intending to impose on it an anti-dumping tax of 21 per cent, Junior Trade Minister Sudrajad Jiwandono said.

Sudrajad forwarded the Indonesian Government's protest in his meetings with EC officials during his recent visit to Brussels, he told journalists here on Monday.

He talked to the journalists after seeing President Suharto at Bina Graha to brief the president on the results of his talks at the EC capital.

He denied that Indonesian polyester exporters were guilty of price dumping.

On the other hand, he advised Indonesian exporters to heed regulations applied in the EC countries or in any other country for that matter, particularly any regulation relating to goods from Indonesia.

In Brussels, he was told that EC administrators had sent official forms for completion by Indonesian polyester exporters by which they were to judge whether the Indonesian businessmen were guilty of price dumping or not.

The exporters did not return any completed form as they were obliged to.

Upon enquiry, a number of the Indonesian exporters denied having received the EC questionnaires.

Sudrajad gave the advice that even if they had not received any form, from now on they should ask for it from the EC headquarters in Brussels every time they were to ship their goods.

Foreign businessmen, too, have to comply with Indonesian regulations pertaining to their respective activities whenever they operate in this country, he said.

Before the EC anti-dumping tax threat, the Trade Ministry had already reminded Indonesian polyester exporters of the possibility.

Indonesian polyester export to the EC was only worth 20 million U.S. dollars in 1989, but Sudrajad said if it had to stop because of the high tax the reverberation would be quite significant.

In his meeting with the president, he also reported about the just ended Annual Resource Indonesia Exhibition (October 16-20) in the capital which this year yielded sales contracts worth 104 million U.S. dollars against 67 million U.S. dollars last year.

Information Minister, Delegation Leave for PRC

BK2110111691 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0931 GMT 21 Oct 91

[Text] Jakarta, Oct. 21 (OANA-ANTARA)—Information Minister Harmoko departed for China on Monday for a six-day visit to the country at the invitation of his Chinese counterpart, Ai Zhisheng.

Harmoko is accompanied by Director General for Press and Graphics Subrata, Director for Television Ishadi S.K. [academic title], and ANTARA News Agency's Managing Director Hanjoyo Nitimiharjo.

Aside from having talks with Minister Zhisheng in Beijing, Harmoko and his delegation are also scheduled to tour a number of cities, including Shanghai, Guangzhou, and China's center of trade and industry, Shenzhen.

Harmoko is to visit the renowned Dongxi Mosque and the Great Wall as well.

The delegation will return home via Hong Kong on Sunday.

Country Posts $403 Million PRC Trade Surplus

OW2110061491 Tokyo KYODO in English 0539 GMT 21 Oct 91

[Text] Jakarta, Oct. 21 KYODO—Indonesia had a surplus of 403 million U.S. dollars in bilateral trade with China during the first half of this year, an Indonesian daily reported Monday.

China's exports to Indonesia came to 203 million dollars, while its imports from Indonesia were worth 606 million dollars, the INDONESIAN OBSERVER quoted Chinese Ambassador to Indonesia Qian Yongnian as saying.

The two-way bilateral trade of 809 million dollars during the half-year period was higher than the total for the past four years valued at 800 million dollars, he said.

"On the whole, China and Indonesia feel satisfied with the rapidly growing relations in trade, politics, and culture since resuming diplomatic relations in August 1990," Qian said.

China imports plywood, pulp, crude oil, rubber, and cooking oil from Indonesia.

Indonesia and China normalized diplomatic relations in August last year after 23 years of estrangement.

Indian Deregulation Expected To Balance Trade

BK2110115191 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0912 GMT 21 Oct 91

[Text] Jakarta, Oct 21 (OANA-ANTARA)—The deregulation policy in the field of trade introduced recently by the Indian Government was expected to open greater opportunities to raise exports of Indonesian products to that country, Indonesian Trade Minister Arifin M. Siregar stated here on Monday.

The deregulation policy among other things would enable India to more freely import goods from other countries, including Indonesia, the minister said after receiving Indian Minister of Trade P. Chidambaram and party.

Arifin Siregar had to admit that the export value of Indonesian products to India after the signing of the trade agreements between the two countries in 1963, 1966, and 1978 was not as expected.

Data from the Central Bureau of Statistics show that after a surplus in the Indonesian-Indian trade balance of 31.5 million U.S. dollars in 1988, Indonesia suffered a deficit in its trade balance of 29.9 million U.S. dollars in 1989, a deficit of 89.6 million U.S. dollars in 1990, and 50.4 million U.S. dollars until May 1991.

Indonesia's main export commodities to India in 1988 through 1991 covered among others essential and animal oils, coal, hides, paper, glass, iron, and polycarbon.

Indonesia imported from india in 1988 through 1991 among other things cattle fodder, iron, aluminium, organic chemical ingredients, dye, yarn, cotton cloth, machineries for the textile and hide industry, and scooters.

According to Arifin M. Siregar, one of the reasons why Indonesian exports to India did not make headway was due to India's economic policy which obstructed imports.

The new Indian Government policy, which provided more freedom in implementing trade relations with other countries, and steps, which would be taken by the Indonesian Government, were expected to be able in bringing about well-balanced trade relations between Indonesia and India, Trade Minister Arifin M. Siregar asserted.

Golkar Urged Not To Be 'Overconfident' on Polls

BK2210101091 Jakarta THE JAKARTA POST in English 18 Oct 91 p 4

[Text] Jakarta (JP)—Armed Forces (ABRI) Commander Gen. Try Sutrisno reminded the ruling Golkar Functional Group yesterday that it should not be overconfident of winning next year's general elections.

"Other political groups will also step up their efforts and strategies to win the elections so as to affirm their existence," Try told the Golkar leadership meeting, held at Golkar headquarters in Jakarta.

Golkar won a landslide victory in the last election in 1987, beating the Moslem-based United Development Party (PPP) and the Indonesian Democratic Party (PDI).

Try told Golkar members that they should remain alert to face vulnerable issues that could disrupt the national stability and hamper development.

Emphasizing that Golkar should be consistent with the ideals and concept of the New Order government of Indonesia, Try said that Golkar needed to revitalize its commitment and spirit as supporter of the government, especially in implementing next year's general elections.

Speaking at Golkar's leadership meeting, held at its headquarters in Jakarta and attended by around 500 officials, he said that the ongoing national development should be continued consistently in line with what had been mapped out by the government.

"Let us not change the present course of development just because we think it must be changed," the Armed Forces commander stated.

The meeting yesterday heard a number of Golkar's top leaders, including Chairman Wahono, Secretary General Rakhmat Witular, give insight into problems facing the faction. Minister of Home Affairs Rudini, who is concurrently chairman of the National Election Committee, also addressed the meeting.

The sessions, which include question and answer exchanges, were open to the press, but journalists were only allowed to publish officially released information.

Laos

Khamtai Siphandon Greets New Romanian Premier

BK1710045291 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 16 Oct 91

[Text] Last week His Excellency Khamtai Siphandon, prime minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR], sent a message of greetings to His Excellency Theodor Dumitru Stolojan, Romania's new prime minister. His Excellency Khamtai Siphandon extended his congratulations and conveyed his best wishes to His Excellency Theodor Dumitru Stolojan on his appointment as prime minister of Romania. He also expressed the hope that the relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries—Laos and Romania—would be increasingly developed.

Minister Receives Cambodian, Malaysian Envoys

BK1810094691 Vientiane KPL in English 0908 GMT 18 Oct 91

[Text] Vientiane, Oct 18 (KPL)—Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Phoun Sipaseut yesterday morning received here a farewell visit by Cambodian Ambassador to Laos Mr. Long Kem, who is ending his 3-year mission here.

Also on the same day afternoon, the Lao foreign minister received new charge d'affaires a.i. of Malaysia to Laos, Mr. Jaafar Kushaari, who has just assumed his mission here.

Chinese Communist Party Delegation Arrives

BK2210103491 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 21 Oct 91

[Text] On 18 October, the delegation of the Chinese Communist Party led by Comrade Ding Tingmo, alternate member of the party Central Committee and deputy secretary of the party committee of the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, arrived in Laos for a visit in accordance with a cooperation plan reached between the two parties which seeks to strengthen and make more fruitful the relations between the two parties, states, and peoples of Laos and China.

The delegation was welcomed at the airport by Comrade Phimpha Thepkhamheuang, member of the party Central Committee and deputy secretary of the Vientiane municipal party committee, a number of concerned cadres, and PRC Charge d'Affaires (Sayin Sung).

PRC Company Installs Vientiane Phone System

BK2010134491 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 17 Oct 91

[Excerpts] Complying with the spirit of the Laos-China cooperation agreement signed by the governments one year ago, the Asia-Pacific Electronics Company Limited of the PRC recently installed a radio signal telecommunication or (?phone link) system in Vientiane Capital to service the public within the municipality. The radio signal telecommunications or (?phone link) system is based on a cordless telecommunication transceiver. [passage omitted]

Mr. (Lu Jian), executive director of the company, said all the equipment installed for the operation of the system had been manufactured in China. The total installation cost of this system was approximately U.S. $350 million [figure as heard]. The radius of its communications capability is 35 kilometers. In carrying out its initial operations, the company received excellent cooperation from the Lao Government, and a company source said the management of the enterprise will do its best to win the Lao Government's trust.

Japanese Government Signs Aid Agreements

BK1710110291 Vientiane KPL in English 0909 GMT 17 Oct 91

[Text] Vientiane, Oct 17 (KPL)—An agreement on the Japanese Government's grant aid of over U.S. $28,000 for artesian well construction project in Phia Lat District of Vientiane Prefecture was signed here yesterday between the head of Phia Lat District Mr. Thongkhan Khongphanchan and Japanese Ambassador to Laos Mr. Shigemi Ando. According to the aid agreement, a survey for the drinking water project will be started right now.

It is reported that on October 25, a note on a refuse disposal project survey in Vientiane Municipality was also signed here between the communication service of the municipality and the head of the JICA [Japanese International Cooperation Agnecy] survey team.

As indicated in the note, two points, one in Dong Phosi area of Saisettha and the other in Non Sa-at area of Saithani, will be made as dumps.

This note also covers the improvement of the existing dump at KM [kilometer marker] 18, Road 13 south.

The survey for the project will commence in mid-October.

Thai Interior Minister Gives Relief Aid

BK2010120891 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 19 Oct 91

[Text] Savannakhet Province's public health service recently received relief aid from the Kingdom of Thailand, which is to be delivered to Lao people in the province who have been affected by the natural calamities that occurred in the middle of this year.

The relief materials included medicine, medical equipment, and many kinds of food worth more than 400,000 kip. The aid was given to the service by Special Colonel Rattanasuk, special representative of Interior Minister General Itsaraphong Nunphakdi of the Kingdom of Thailand. The provincial relief authorities have already distributed the aid to the people affected by the natural disasters.

Swedish Group Gives Aid to Women's Union

BK1810100091 Vientiane KPL in English 0921 GMT 18 Oct 91

[Text] Vientiane, Oct 17 (KPL)—A cooperation agreement was signed here on October 16 between the Swedish International Development Authority [SIDA] and the Lao Women's Union to promote in all aspects the social role for women.

The cooperation involves SIDA's aid to train Lao women in science and technology practical to mother and child health care, child education, cultivation, livestock and development of household economy.

In addition, the SIDA has provided a fund to the Lao Women's Union for its staff training in English language in the country and abroad.

Signing the U.S. $117,990 aid agreement on behalf of the sides were Swedish Charge D'affaires A.I. to Laos Mr. Per Gustavkokeritz and Vice President of the Lao Women's Union, Mrs. Davon Vongsak.

Lao Airways Begins Service to Ho Chi Minh City

BK2010115091 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 12000 GMT 19 Oct 91

[Excerpt] The Lao International Airways Company, operated by the Ben-Chang Company, has inaugurated its flight service between Vientiane and the SRV's Ho Chi Minh City, which will begin on Friday, 18 October. There will be one flight each week between the two cities every Friday.

Mrs. (Renawibunrimon Chang), chairperson of the Lao International Airways Company, said the company already operates a regular flight between Vientiane and the State of Cambodia's Phnom Penh, formerly using the Antonov-24 but now switching to the TU-154. The company has now begun to operate overseas flights to many destinations, for example between Vientiane and Ho Chi Minh City—the fourth of its kind so far. The company will soon begin other overseas routes, such as to Chiang Mai in Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, and Kunming and Guangzhou in China. In coordination with the Lao Government, the Lao International Airways Company has contacted those countries about operating its flights there. In the past, the company operated regular flights to many foreign destinations, such as the Vientiane-Bangkok, Vientiane-Phnom Penh, and Vientiane-Hanoi routes. [passage omitted]

Youth Delegation To Attend Congress in Cambodia

BK2210102891 Vientiane KPL in English 0907 GMT 22 Oct 91

[Text] Vientiane, Oct 22 (KPL)—Mrs. Thongvin Phomvihan, first secretary of the Lao People's Revolutionary Youth Union [LPRYU], on October 18 left here to attend the second congress of the Kampuchean Youth Union held in Phnom Penh.

Seeing the delegation off were Mr. Khamman Sounvileut, second secretary of the LPRYU CC [Central Committee], and Mr. Long Kem, Cambodian ambassador to Laos.

Minister Says State Ends 'Forest Extraction'

BK2110112891 Vientiane KPL in English 0908 GMT 21 Oct 91

[Text] Vientiane, Oct 21 (KPL)—The forest area in Laos, according to an estimate of tropical forest in 1990, is about 11,273,000 hectares or 47 percent of the country's total area, but it is destroyed not less than 300,000 hectares a year, said Agriculture Minister Sisavat Keobounphan at a ceremony marking the 11th anniversary of the World Food Day this year.

The minister attributed the loss to swidden cultivation and arbitrary trees felling and uncontrolled forest concessions. The forest and environmental degradation has seriously affected agricultural production, hydropower stations, navigation and irrigational facilities.

Sisavat Keobounphan also indicated that some weeks ago the Lao Government issued a decree on endorsing a tropical forest project and on ending forest extraction throughout the country.

This was to undertake inspection over the activities aimed to regulate the management of timber business according to the law.

Rice Shortage Predicted for Champassak in 1992

BK2110145391 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 21 Oct 91

[Text] The agricultural and forestry service of Champassak Province reported that, according to its prediction, farmers in the province will face a shortage of more than 50,000 metric tons of rice for consumption in 1992 as a result of the severe flooding in August this year. According to the latest survey conducted by the service, more than 19,000 hectares of ricefields have been damaged by floods—equivalent to 19 percent of the total acreage of ricefields in the province.

In addition, some 20 hectares of ricefields have also been destroyed by agricultural pests. It is estimated that natural disasters have caused the province approximately 3.3 billion kip in losses.

Philippines

Drilon Reviews Topics in U.S. Withdrawal Talks

HK2210044591 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 22 Oct 91 pp 1, 14

[By Fred M. Lobo]

[Text] Malacanang said yesterday that the RP [Republic of the Philippines]-U.S. talks on a three-year orderly withdrawal of U.S. forces and facilities in the country will focus on three major areas and will be finished in two months.

But President Aquino stressed that U.S. officials should not link the Philippine Aid Plan (PAP) to the bases issue, saying the two are separate matters.

Executive Secretary Franklin Drilon said that the discussion on the executive agreement to govern the withdrawal of the U.S. forces and facilities at Subic Naval Base "will not be protracted or acrimonious."

Drilon, who is the chairman of the RP withdrawal committee, said that the forthcoming RP-U.S. talks will focus on three major areas of discussion, as follows:

1. A clear and unequivocal agreement that there will be an orderly and complete withdrawal of the U.S. forces and facilities from Subic not later than Sept. 17, 1994.
2. A status of force agreement (SOFA).
3. Rules governing the use of the facilities during the withdrawal period.

"I expect to finish the talks in two months," Drilon said.

He added that the threat of some U.S. officials to withdraw their facilities if the government insists on the withdrawal of all troops within a year's time may be discussed in the course of the talks.

The three-year compromise orderly withdrawal formula was offered earlier by Mrs. Aquino following Senate rejection of the RP-U.S. Treaty of Friendship Cooperation, and Security that would have replaced the RP-U.S. Military Agreement (MBA) which expired last Sept. 16.

The compromise formula has drawn the support of 16 senators or two-thirds of the Senate, the vote required to ratify a treaty.

Meanwhile, the President said that the PAP should not in any way be linked to the bases issue.

Senate President Jovite Salonga had said the other day that U.S. special envoy Elliot Richardson was linking the PAP to the bases by warning that opposition to a longer withdrawal period could imperil future PAP pledging sessions.

The Philippine government plans to hold another PAP pledging session this coming January to get more development assistance for the country from various donor countries in the wake of devastation by calamities and economic difficulties.

Senators Accuse U.S. of Delaying Withdrawal

HK2210101191 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 0800 GMT 22 Oct 91

[Combined reports by anchorwoman Jennifer Postigo and field reporter Milky Rigonan of DZRH Unit No. 12; italicized passages in English]

[Text] Senator Aquilino Pimentel, Jr. has bluntly declared that, if the American Government does not want to accept the diplomatic note sent by the Philippines, they can just leave any minute now. In an interview with DZRH, Senator Pimentel said the Filipino people cannot accept the very minimal amount being offered as payment for their continued stay in the Philippines.

Regarding the termination notice the Americans are waiting for, Senator Pimentel said that if President Aquino does not want to issue another notice of termination, the Senate's rejection of the Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation, and Security will be sufficient notice in itself. Here is part of Senator Aquilino Nene Pimentel, Jr.'s statement:

[Begin Pimentel recording] For me, if they do not want to accept the diplomatic note, then they should really just leave. What are they waiting for? They do not want to have another round of talks. So what more? It is improper for us to just accept the very insulting offer contained in this treaty. I stand firm that, if they do not like it, the do not have to accept it. They can leave. [end recording]

In a related development, Senator Ernesto Maceda has stressed that the United States seems to intentionally avoid taking action on the government's request regarding their bases in the country. According to Senator Maceda, the United States has so many alibis for the issue of the withdrawal period of their military facilities in the Philippines, when in fact the Senate has long rejected the Republic of the Philippines-U.S. Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation, and Security.

Senator Maceda also said that the reason the Americans are delaying the complete withdrawal of their military bases in the country is so they can intervene in the coming elections.

[Begin recording] [Maceda] *First, they'll try to stall for five, because it is their interest, their interest to delay.*

[Unidentified reporter] *Can you elaborate on this?*

[Maceda] Well, first, there is no agreement and *the present situation is continuing.* [end recording]

Aquino Says U.S. Bases, Aid Not Connected

HK2210080791 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 21 Oct 91

[Text] The Philippine Assistance Program [PAP] has nothing to do with the U.S. bases in the Philippines. This was clarified by President Corazon Aquino in reaction to the accusation by Senate President Jovito Salonga that the U.S. special envoy to the PAP, Elliot Richardson, attempted to use the program to pressure the antibases senators to allow American forces to remain in the Philippines.

Salonga said that Richardson hinted that next year's PAP pledging session may be affected by the immediate withdrawal of the U.S. bases from the Philippines. In a statement, Mrs. Aquino said that she does not see any connection between the PAP and the military bases and that any statement made by Salonga on this issue is merely his personal opinion. The president stressed that, no matter what the situation, there is no direct relationship between the PAP and the U.S. bases issues, and, therefore, the Senate has no reason to be anxious about this matter.

Aquino Denies Involved With Anti-Marcos Groups

HK2210100991 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 0800 GMT 22 Oct 91

[By Dick Singchongco, DZRH Unit 6]

[Text] President Aquino has denied that she was involved with anti-Marcos elements, including Jack Terrell, during her exile in America. The president strongly denied knowing Terrell or participating in activities with anti-Marcos exiles. The president also refused to comment on the issue. This was the president's reaction to a report by opposition Senator Juan Ponce Enrile, which stated that Terrell was an active member of the exile movement that opposed former late President Ferdinand Marcos. Terrell was said to have been hired by Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus to liquidate all primary rebel leaders like Gregorio Hosanan. The Terrell expose is currently being investigated in the Senate.

Aquino To Discuss Running in 1992 Election

HK2210113891 Quezon City ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corporation DZMM in Tagalog 1100 GMT 22 Oct 91

[Text] President Aquino will consult some groups regarding the possibility of running again for president in next year's election. The president said this during her meeting with some congressmen of the Struggle of the Filipino Democrats including some mayors and governors. This was confirmed by her younger brother, Congressman Jose Peping Cojuangco. Cojuangco said there might be a talk between the president and House Speaker Ramon Mitra on who will give way if the president announces her candidacy on the national election in 1992. Meanwhile, the president did not mention which group she will be consulting regarding this matter.

Aquino Dismisses Military Rebels' Coup Threat

HK2210101791 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 22 Oct 91

[By Dick Sinchongco]

[Text] President Aquino has dismissed the possibility that rebel soldiers belonging to the Reform the Armed Forces Movement [RAM] may launch a new coup. The president gave a statement in which she said there is no force that has the power to overthrow the Aquino government. This was the president's reaction to a statement by fugitive military rebel Domingo Calajate which said that the RAM has not abandoned its goal of overthrowing the Aquino government. Earlier, Calajate said that they do not have any plans to surrender or seek amnesty under the present administration.

Meanwhile, Defense Secretary Renato de Villa said that the rebel soldiers no longer have the capability to launch a massive movement to cause the government to fall. De Villa admitted that the rebel soldiers still have the capability to launch a limited operation or sow violence.

Aquino To Lobby Senate on 1992 Fiscal Program

HK2210063491 Manila PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY in English 22 Oct 91 p 8

[By Andres B. Saracho]

[Text] President Aquino will seek a dialog with the Senate leadership to lobby for the proposed fiscal program for 1992, particularly the passage of revenue-enhancement measures, which have emerged as the most crucial factor in getting more economic aid from foreign creditors and donors and in subsequently boosting the country's economic growth to about 3.5 percent next year.

In a press briefing yesterday, Finance Secretary Jesus P. Estanislao said he was assured that most of the proposed tax measures in the House of Representatives would be passed within the week, before Congress takes a two-week recess.

But getting these measures—the simplified net income taxation system, refinements in the value-added tax, and the alien stay legalization program—passed in the Senate remains a gargantuan task the Aquino administration has to accomplish when session resumes early next month.

These measures would generate additional revenues of about P[Philippine pesos]13 billion for the government to partly fill the P39 billion budgetary shortfall for 1992, Estanislao said.

He added that, if passed, the revenue-enhancement measures would boost public infrastructure and provide the impetus for a 3.5 percent growth rate next year.

Estanislao said Mrs. Aquino will meet the senators possibly during the reess, to get their cooperation in "keeping our fiscal house in order."

In last week's debt negotiations with the country's foreign creditors during the annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank in Bangkok, the Philippine government was given only up to the third week of November to finalize its fiscal program for 1992.

An IMF review mission is set to arrive in Manila at that time to look into the program during which time the government is expected to request for revisions in the budget deficit target in the 18-month standby arrangement with the IMF.

IMF managing director Michel Camdessus has said the Fund will be flexible regarding the country's request, but stressed that it is necessary for the executive and legislative branches of government to agree on the 1992 fiscal program.

The same sentiment was raised by Gautam Kaji, the World bank's country operations director for East Asia, who said, "There is a great sympathy for the Philippines but it should be complemented by a clear demonstration that the government is itself trying to put its house in order by moving boldly in certain areas."

Under the existing program, the budgetary shortfall for 1992 is targeted at P3.5 billion. But Estanislao said the target has become unattainable due to the anticipated increase in government spending, particularly for the reconstruction of the Mt. Pinatubo eruption-devastated Central Luzon and the lack of revenues that could be raised.

Completing the IMF review would pave the way for further aid and loans from foreign creditors and donors, including the holding of the third pledging session for the Philippine Assistance Program [PAP] and the implementation of a $2.3-billion debt relief agreement with foreign-commercial banks.

"It is a difficult task, but one which we must resolve by the third week of November," Estanislao emphasized. "We are racing against time: to take out whatever guarantees within reach to keep our fiscal house in order...we have to do so because we are all aware of how much is at stake."

On getting the necessary congressional support to put the fiscal program in place, Estanislao said, "While there is a universal recognition of the imperative to obtain the support of both houses of Congress, still the executive branch cannot profer any guarantee of what the Congress will do."

"We have gotten excellent cooperation from the bigger House (of Representatives). Frankly, the prospects of getting the same cooperation from the Senate are not up to me to speculate about," he said.

Nonetheless, the finance chief said he was "sure we will go through the (IMF) review successfully."

Estanislao said the Philippines will extend by mid-December the invitations to donor governments and institutions for the third PAP pledging session, tentatively set between Feb. 8 and 17 in Hong Kong.

The IMF review will also clear the way for getting enhancements from multilateral and bilateral sources to implement the debt relief agreement with the foreign banks. Estanislao said he is confident the accord will be closed within the first quarter of 1992.

All told, Estanislao said the Philippine is caught in the center of three competing imperatives for resolving the fiscal issue for 1992. He aid, "The fight against inflation must be relentless, so the fiscal deficit must be kept within prudent, conservative levels. The demands of Mt. Pinatubo are mounting by the day and are stretched out into an uncertain, unspecified future."

"The pruning knife has already been applied way beyond the fat, it has cut more than raw flesh and is now down to the bone: any further cuts are going to seriously affect the medium and long-term development prospects of the country," he added.

Aquino Says Communist Front Demands Unacceptable

HK2210062591 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 1000 GMT 21 Oct 91

[Text] President Aquino believes that the National Democratic Front's [NDF] conditions for a lasting peace will not materialize. Here is Tanny Rodriquez with the details:

[Begin Rodriquez recording] Aquino made this announcement in response to the proposal by the NDF, the Communist Party of the Philippines front organization, which was submitted to the Cabinet Cluster on Security and Political Affairs before they spoke with the government. Their conditions include the abolition of the Citizens Armed Forces Geographical Unit, the elimination of the suffering of prisoners and the penalties imposed on them, regular consultation between the human rights offices, which will be formed by both sides, and that noncombatants will desist from any violence. The president said that initial conditions such as these usually cause peace initiatives to fail, because both sides cannot agree on them before starting any discussion of peace. The president said that the government will continue its initiatives to have a peace talk at the local level and will consider this an important project. [end recording]

Manila Welcomes Warming of PRC, Vietnam Ties

HK2210114991 Hong Kong AFP in English 1115 GMT 22 Oct 91

[Text] Manila, Oct 22 (AFP)—Philippine Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus welcomes the warming of relations between China and Vietnam, whose leaders are to attend a summit in Beijing later this year, the foreign department said here Tuesday.

Manglapus, now in Paris to witness the signing of a peace treaty to end the civil war in Cambodia, said that while "integration and strife are still going on in some parts of eastern Europe, it is noteworthy that the political landscape in southeast Asia is more positive," a department statement said.

China backed the Khmer Rouge, which ruled Cambodia from 1975 and was ousted in a Vietnamese invasion in 1978. The Khmer Rouge became the strongest of three warring factions fighting the Vietnam-installed government of Hun Sen.

Beijing and Hanoi also engaged in a violent and inconclusive conflict when China attacked northern Vietnam in February 1979, and the two countries have also skirmished over territorial claims on the Spratly Islands, also claimed in whole or in part by Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines and Taiwan.

The foreign department statement also said that Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam proposed to Manglapus to negotiate an accord for the promotion of economic relations between Vietnam and the Philippines.

Canadian Project To Assist Decentralization

HK2110062291 Manila THE CHRONICLE in English 21 Oct 91 p 3

[Text] Andre S. Simard, Canadian ambassador to the Philippines, and Foreign Secretary Raul S. Manglapus have signed a memorandum of understanding for the local government support program.

This Canadian project will assist the Philippine government in its decentralization efforts in three regions: Western Visayas, Southern Mindanao and the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

The initiative is intended to enhance the capability of the local governments of these regions to carry out planning, programming and project implementation functions.

It was designed to complement the transfer of greater administrative, financial and political authorities to local government units.

The Canadian International Development Agency will provide Cdn $5 million [Canadian dollars] (P118.68 million [Philippine pesos]) over a six-year period to cover the foreign-exchange costs of its local government support program.

Senate To Examine Alleged Assassination Plot

Enrile Demands Investigation

HK2210023591 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 21 Oct 91

[Text] Senator Juan Ponce Enrile says that the American mercenary Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus, hired to kill the leaders of the rebel soldiers, worked for the U.S.-based anti-Marcos organization led by the secretary.

In his privileged speech, Enrile said that Jack Terrell worked for the Movement for a Free Philippines, which was headed by Manglapus himself. According to Enrile, this proves that Terrell is not a mere acquaintance of Manglapus; rather, Terrell was appointed by Manglapus as an intelligence officer in the Department of Foreign Affairs.

At the same time, Enrile asked that a formal investigation on Manglapus and Terrell be conducted in order to establish the truth behind the allegations. By means of a resolution, the sole opposition senator asked for an extensive investigation into the assasination plot, not only against Lieutenant Colonel Gregorio Gringo Honasan's group, but also against civilian opponents of the government.

Senate Prepares Probe

HK2210054491 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 1000 GMT 21 Oct 91

[Text] In response to Malacanang's statement that Terrell's expose is part of a conspiracy by some groups to overthrow the government, Defense Secretary Renato de Villa asserted that the country's security remains stable despite the so-called Terrell expose. Although he did not give an explanation, De Villa said that he has been in constant consultation with different military and police intelligence officers. Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus has vehemently denied American mercenary Jack Terrell's accusation.

Meanwhile, Navy Captain Rex Robles said that the Americans are responsibile for shifting the issue from the Philippine-U.S. bases talks to controversies which may cause trouble in the country.

In related news, the Senate will summon National Security Adviser Rafael Ileto to a public hearing to explain an assassination plot allegedly hatched by Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus. Senate Defense Committee Chairman Ernesto Maceda said the investigation has been set for tomorrow to shed light on American mercenary Jack Terrell's allegations that Manglapus hired him to kill President Aquino's political enemies. Manglapus, who is currently overseas, will also be summoned to testify before the Senate along with a representative from the American television network on which Terrell issued the allegations. Manglapus admitted having met with Terrel several times last year but denied hiring him to kill the leaders of the Reform the Armed Forces Movement, a group which launched several coups d'etat against President Aquino.

Paper Supports Investigation

HK2110041791 Manila PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY in English 21 Oct 91 p 10

["Turn of Events" column by Francisco S. Tatad: "How Innocent Is Manglapus?"]

[Text] It is not easy to take at face value the revelation by a self-confessed American mercenary that he had been hired by Foreign Secretary Raul manglapus after the coup attempt of December 1989 to kill coup leader Gregorio Honasan and some leaders of the opposition. Whatever one thinks of manglapus, he does not have the image of a Mafioso. Devoted to his oratory, his jam sessions and his marginal political party, he is hardly one you would associate with Murder, Inc. But there is another side to this story.

A letter appearing under the signature of Rebolusyonaryong Alyansa ng Makabayang Mamamayan [Revolutionary Alliance of Nationalist Citizens] (RAMM)—an organization one had not heard of before—includes me in a short list of alleged targets for active surveillance and eventual elimination by this mercenary. Ever since the list appeared in the media, people have been asking what I think of it. Frankly, I do not know.

From 1969 to 1980, I served in the Cabinet. For most of the time I was there, I lived with one form of threat or another; it came with the territory. On one occasion, a foreign correspondent who was as much my friend as he was then Senator Benigno Aquino's warned me of a plot reportedly being hatchted inside the Aquino camp to have me and my wife kidnapped as a way of showing the strength of the opposition and the administration's vulnerability. These threats did not abate when I resigned from the Cabinet in order to join the oposition in 1980, before the lifting of martial law.

But ever since I left public office, in order to go back to journalism, I have not been part of anything so important as to merit my landing in anyone's hit list. As a writer I have not insulted anyone unintentionally. But aside from writing perishable columns on the hypocrisy and dimwittedness of the regime, I have not been party to anything that has endangered the power or affluence of Mrs. Aquino.

I was a victim of the computerized fraud in the 1987 senatorial elections, but even my reaction to that has not made me a threat to anybody. I am no political equivalent of Salman Rushdie. I have therefore no special reason to believe Jack Terrell's allegation, much less the RAMM document including me in the alleged target list.

And yet, as I watched Manglapus's filmed reaction to Terrell's allegations, I could not help but ask myself if I really knew anything to form the basis of acquitting the foreign secretary. Manglapus admitted having known Terrell during his days as a "steak commando" in the U.S.; admitted having received Terrell in his San Lorenzo residence several times (he did not count); failed to deny categorically that the tape played to support Terrell's allegation contained his (Manglapus's) voice; and failed to deny having anything to do with bundles of money that had been photographed as proof of his having given it to Terrell as alleged down payment on the contract.

I had as much dificulty processing Manglapus's profession of innocence as I had processing Terrell's shocking story. Why could he not be more categorical in denying the allegation? Did he perhaps suspect that there was more documentary evidence implicating him to the alleged plot?

Given the seriousness of the allegation, Manglapus should demand a congressional inquiry, even if no one else demanded or initiated any. If he is truly innocent, it is the least he can do, if only to protect and affirm his innocence. But this he has not done.

And instead of supporting the call made by others for such an inquiry, officials of the House of Representatives, led by the President's relatives, have dismissed the need for such an inquiry. LDP [Struggle of Filipino Democrats] Majority Floor Leader Francisco Sumulong, an uncle of president Aquino's, said Manglapus's "sterling record" cannot be put side by side with the "dubious background and questionable mentality" of a self-confessed mercenary. The allegation, according to him, is "unworthy of formal inquiry."

Manglapus's foreign secretaryship has been as poor and as shabby as Mrs. Aquino's presidency; he was also once thrown out of the Senate for violating the election law. So the word "sterling" may be a little out of place. Be that as it may, no one can and should be more zealous than Manglapus in protecting his integrity. If he had chosen to compromise that by receiving a mercenary in his own residence several times, then not all the Sumulongs of this world can protect him or should be allowed to protect him from the consequences of his own folly. He must, at the very least, be made to explain those meetings, and there's no better venue than a congressional inquiry.

Manglapus says he was not aware of Terrell's dark background when he received him in his residence. It was only later he came to know. Exactly when, he does not say. But independent sources claim that Manglapus has had a long, continuing association with Terrell; that Terrell worked closely with the anti-Marcos "steak commandos" in the U.S. during the Marcos years; that he and Manglapus might have worked together in some operations in El Salvador, Honduras, or some parts of Latin America.

The point is that Manglapus was not at all innocent of Terrell's credentials or capabilities when he started receiving him in his Makati home; the mere fact that Manglapus has admitted receiving Terrell several times is enough reason to invite a congressional inquiry.

An inquiry should, among other things, help to establish whether Malacanang had any knowledge of the Manglapus-Terrell meetings, and whether any project discussed there had the prior knowledge or imprimatur of Mrs. Aquino. Any attempt to prohibit or avoid an inquiry into this can only be interpreted as a cover-up intended to protect Mangalpus and Mrs Aquino. This is likely to harm rather than help the two.

Manglapus, we have said earlier, does not have the popular image of a Mafioso. His crewcut hair and boyish looks falsify his age and hide any mean streak within that may be capable of making him do to others what he would not want others to do to him. But his exterior appearance does not override or alter the fact that in the fight against Marcos, the anti-Marcos forces of which he was a leading light reconstructed ethics and morality to allow the end to justify the means.

This covered almost everything, from the Light a Fire Movement, to the bombing of convention centers, to the possible physical elimination of certain personalities. is it possible that the same reconstructed political morality was again invoked by the same players, after mrs Aquino nearly fell in the failed December 1989 coup?

People who do not know Mangalpus and whom the public in turn does not know have vouched for his moral probity. This happens everyday. But Terrll's allegations can never be sufficiently answered or laid to rest by such types of self-serving testimonials. Manglapus must contest the allegations on his own, using verifiable data. A simple denial will not do.

Given the many unpunished crimes of this regime, the people need to be assured that their government, no matter how corrupt and unworthy, has not completely degenerated into a criminal syndicate that would employ assassination in order to suppress political dissent and enforce conformity.

Air Force Helicopter Crashes in Samar

HK2210012191 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in Tagalog 0100 GMT 22 Oct 91

[Text] An Air Force lieutenant died and three soldiers were injured when their Air Force Dewey helicopter crashed yesterday in Barangay Batakay, Inabangan, Samar. Lieutenant Roy Cuevas died instantly when the helicopter crashed. Arnulfo Andales, Romulo Macasaet, and Simplicio Lumandas were injured and are currently being treated at Tacloban City Medical Center.

Government Troops, NPA Clash, Kill 20 People

HK2210072691 Quezon City MALAYA in English 22 Oct 91 p 3

[Text] Twenty persons were killed in two separate clashes between government troops and New People's

Army [NPA] guerrillas in Surigao del Sur and Davao del Norte, the military said yesterday.

In a related development, civilians in Catanauan, Quezon were reportedly used as "shields" by Army elements during encounters with NPA rebels, the Ecumenical Movement for Justice and Peace [EMJP] said.

President Aquino, meanwhile, stood firm on her stand that peace talks with communist insurgents must be held at the local level. The National Democratic Front has said that such dialogues must be conducted on the national level.

Brig. Gen. Quintin Alcudia, commander of the 4th Infantry Division, said some 200 NPA guerrillas attacked the command post of the 29th Infantry Battalion in Tandag, Surigao del Sur, resulting in the death of nine rebels and three militiamen during the two-hour firefight Sunday.

The rebels withdrew when army reinforcements arrived.

The raid was the second attack on the camp in a week. There were no casualties in the Oct. 15 attack.

In Davao del Norte, an army patrol killed eight rebels during a 10-minute clash Saturday. The Army said it did suffer any casualty.

The EMJP-Southern Tagalog said the Army's 76th Infantry Battalion held civilians captive and strafed their houses during counterinsurgency operations which started in September in Barangays malaya, magsaysay, Lavidez, Sta maria Dao and Recto in Catanauan, Quezon, Triggering mass evacuation.

A three-day fact-finding mission, composed of representatives of human rights groups, will be sent to the area on Oct. 14-16 to verify the reports.

World Body on Communists' Human Rights Abuses

HK1710041791 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 17 Oct 91 p 6

[Text] The Brussels-based Christian Democrat International [CDI] released a 46-page report Tuesday on the Philippine human rights situation which also assailed violations committed by communist rebels against civilians and military men.

The CDI report, presented in a conference at the International Press Center adjacent to the European Commission, headquaters in Brussels, also questioned the method of reporting by influential international organizations like Amnesty International and other nongovernmental organizations in the preparation of reports on the Philippines.

CDI raised the issue of "editorial element" coming into play with the infusion of the ideological and political preferences of subordinate staffers preparing human rights reports.

Ambassador Roberto R. Romulo, Philippine envoy to Belgium and the European Communities, said those present at the press conference were Bryan Palmer, CDI deputy secretary; Jose Esteban Gonzales, executive secretary of the CDI Commission on Human Rights; and Stegbert Alber and Gabrele Shoarina, both European parliamentarians and CDI members.

Mary Concepcion Bautista, Philippine Commissioner of Human Rights [PCHR], was guest speaker. She gave an overview and update on the human rights situation in the country, including reforms undertaken by the CHR in safeguarding the rights of apprehended persons and detainees.

The CDI Report, entitled "The Situation of Human Rights and DEmocratic Reconstruction in the Philippines," acknowledged the Aquino government's resolve and willingness "to advance a program of democrats reconstruction and the production of human rights."

The report also took cognizance that the Aquino government had to dismantle a repulsive apparatus institutionalized over 20 years "using only democratic procedures."

Human Rights Group Alleges 'Rampant' Violations

HK2210054291 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 22 Oct 91 p 8

[By J.Y.G.; expansion unknown]

[Text] CEBU City—Twelve human rights groups in the Visayas have called for the disbandment of Cafgu [Citizen Armed Forces Geographical Units] units in the region for alleged rampant human rights violations.

The call was made in a joint resolution adopted Oct. 16 when the Visayas Human Rights Conference (VHRC), an umbrella organization, collated incidents of violations in the region during its assembly here.

The resolution cited four major incidents in Iloilo, Negros Oriental, Cebu and Leyte to support its call.

—It said the killing of councilman Marian Albueva in Barangay Ongos, San Joaquin, Iloilo on April 24, this year was done by Cafgus.
—The frustrated massacre in Leyte on March 20, wounding three persons and killing one; and that in Tuburan, Cebu on Feb. 24.
—The strafing of houses in sitio Payao payanan, Sta Catalina, Negros Oriental on July 18 and 19 by Cafgus and military men.

The Visayas reportedly has the largest concentration of Cafgus at 19,300. the resolution said these paramilitary forces are "coddling" fanatic groups, private armies, and armed goons of landlords.

The VHRC also adopted another resolution calling for an end to the total war policy of the Aquino administration.

Thailand

Protection From Nationalization in SRV Accord

BK2110030991 Bangkok THE NATION in English 21 Oct 91 p B1

[Text] Thai investment in Vietnam will be protected against nationalization for ten more years in the event the umbrella bilateral economic cooperation pact, signed in Hanoi last month, was terminated, said government sources.

The measure was discussed extensively by officials of both countries and later added to the investment agreement, which will be signed by Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun and his Vietnamese counterpart, Vo Van Kiet, during the latter's visit to Bangkok later this month.

The accord was designed to encourage Thai businessmen to invest in Vietnam by providing legal protection for foreign capital and property and allowing outward remittances with minimal restrictions.

The pact is part of a broader economic cooperation treaty which Thai Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin signed with his Vietnamese counterpart during his visit to Hanoi on Sept 17-18. Separate agreements on fisheries and energy cooperation are being negotiated. They are to be signed on the same occasion.

The special provision which has been added to the investment agreement was largely seen as a confidence-building measure for Thai investors. According to Thai Deputy Foreign Minister Wichian Watthanakhun, several lenient treatments were awarded to Thai investors as Vietnam looks to Thailand for more capital and trade.

Meanwhile, only two contentious issues in the fisheries agreement remain to be finalized by negotiators of both countries, according to well-informed sources in the Agriculture and Foreign ministries.

The overall agreement governing fishing and related activities in Vietnam was based on mutual benefits. It suggested that joint venture companies be set up in fishing and processing industries to exploit marine resources in Vietnam. Profits from such enterprises will be shared between the two parties according to their shareholding.

However, Deputy Agriculture Minister At Taolanon said both sides remained largely divided over whether or not the requirement that Thai investors to process fish caught in Vietnam's waters in that country should be stated explicitly in the agreement.

The Thai side preferred the clause to be left out so as to allow Thai fishing companies to ship part of the catches back to processing plants in Thailand or sell fresh marine products to third countries at premiums.

The Vietnamese counterpart was not comfortable with the idea as it wanted to develop the processing industry in the country. However, the uncertainty and vulnerability surrounding foreign investment in Vietnam have discouraged Thai companies to put up investment in large processing plants there.

According to At, the Vietnamese agreed to review the condition and expected to give a positive answer shortly before the Vietnamese premier arrives in Bangkok for a four-day visit on Oct 27.

The other aspect which has to be agreed upon is the recognition of territorial waters of both countries. Territorial conflicts over dispute areas at sea between Thailand and Vietnam has yet to be resolved.

So far, both sides claim sovereignty over these areas and prefer to leave this legal question for the time being for fear that talks on this sensitive issue might derail the scheduled signing of the whole set of economic accords.

To cool down conflicts from escalating, Thai officials have assured their Vietnamese counterparts that the recently-created National Fisheries Policy Committee, chaired by Deputy Prime Minister Phao Sarasin, is looking at ways to settle the territorial conflicts amiably with all neighbouring countries.

However, the measures introduced so far, which include the official registration of overseas fishing trawlers and equipment, were unlikely to prevent Thai fishermen from making frequent forays into the waters of neighbouring countries. The scarcity of marine resources in Thai waters is the main reason underlying the illegal action.

In a gesture of goodwill, Vietnam and Thailand will also free a total of over 500 fishermen detained after being arrested outside their own territorial water.

The two countries plan on Oct 24 to release 503 fishermen who were captured while allegedly fishing outside their own territorial waters.

Thailand will free 159 Vietnamese fishermen while Vietnam will release 344 Thais on the southern Vietnamese island of Phu Quoc near Cambodia.

Constitutional Committee Provision Dropped

BK2210011491 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 22 Oct 91 p 1

[Text] The controversial Constitution Committee, with powers to supervise the general election and to oversee the conduct of MPs and senators, has been dropped from the draft Constitution.

Constitutional Scrutiny Committee spokesman Wira Phitrachat said last night his committee has agreed to scrap the entire Chapter 6, covering the Constitution

Committee, as recommended by 14 of 22 assembly members who had reservations about the provision and wanted to debate it.

The majority of MPs who opposed the committee likened its role to that of a teacher who oversees the conduct of his pupils, Mr Wira said.

In a democratic form of government, Parliament is one of the three governing institutions, the others being the government and the judiciary.

Having the Constitution Committee, with powers to oversee senators as well as elected representatives, would make the committee the fourth branch of government said the spokesman, quoting the dissenting views aired during the seven-hour marathon meeting of the Constitutional Scrutiny Committee.

Moreover, Mr Wira said there were opinions against the five-year term of the Constitution Committee, which would be one year longer than of Parliament.

He said concern was also voiced about possible abuse of the committee's role by unscrupulous politicians who lose an election and might lodge false complaints to the committee against successful candidates or ministers.

In such a case, the committee would have to conduct an investigation to verify the complaint and this might impede MPs or ministers in the performance of their duties.

Democratic-minded politicians and academics had earlier voiced strong objection to the Constitution Committee, claiming the concept is undemocratic for it would give rise to a super-organisation armed with many powers.

They also claimed that the committee would be a tool through which the National Peace-keeping Council could perpetuate its power after the election.

Under the draft Constitution, the committee would have comprised a chairman and eight members, two of them from the Judicial Commission and two each from the Senate, the House of Representatives and the Government.

The Constitution Committee's roles would have included preparing a list of nominees for the Senate; supervising the election; investigating complaints against MPs or senators and to take cases to court against MPs or senators.

While bowing to the pressure to axe the committee, the Constitutional Scrutiny Committee refused to cede the senators' power to demand a no-confidence debate against the government.

Mr Wira said assembly members had reservations about Article 165 of the draft Constitution and wanted the article ommitted because it would permit senators to call for a general debate to "grill" the government.

Daily Analyzes STP-Chat Thai Party Alliance

BK2010042091 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 20 Oct 91 p 2

[From the "Weekend Analysis" column by Soemsuk Kasitipradit]

[Text] With an alliance apparently emerging between the military-backed Samakkhi Tham Party [STP] and the Chat Thai Party, the New Aspiration Party [NAP]—headed by former Army chief Gen [General] Chawalit Yongchaiyut—is wondering what it can do to avoid being isolated in a corner.

The election of Airports Authority of Thailand Governor Air Chief Marshal [ACM] Sombun Rahong, as close associate of Air Chief Marshal Kaset Rotchananin, as Chat Thai's new leader comes as no surprise with political analysts agreeing that the move is aimed at crushing the NAP and strengthening Chat Thai's coorperation with the STP.

A senior NAP member said this week that top party members have been discussing political options to reverse the defection of former MPs who pledged to join the NAP but switched to the STP.

"The main problem is the administration of the party," said one NAP member. The party leader has passed authority to certain party members who, in turn, have not delegated responsibility. This has caused administrative problems and frustrated supporters.

The NAP member said something has to be done otherwise the NAP will face a humiliating defeat at the poLls.

One senior NAP member who has been the target of criticism is former interior permanent secretary Phisan Munlasatsathon. He has the responsibility of organising the party's election campaign in the Northeast where 126 seats were at stake in the last general election.

"His style of working is the same as when he was a government official and this is the main problem. He has not treated former MPs who joined the party with respect," said one former Northeastern MP who originally agreed to join the NAP but is now with the STP.

While senior NAP members ponder their options, a clearer picture of how political parties will fare in the next election will emerge when the Constitution Scrutiny Committee, headed by Osot Kosin, finalises its work.

The key question is whether or not the committee will change the electoral system to a party slate system which would require voters to select one party for an enlarged constituency rather than choose from several candidates from several parties as in the last election.

The current draft envisages enlarged constituencies with each having seven instead of four seats. An entire province could form one constituency but if there are more than seven seats required in relation to the number of voters the province will be split into two constituencies.

The STP, with its main military backer ACM Kaset, supports the party slate system. Top STP members make no secret of their belief that a party slate system will break the back of the NAP thrust in the Northeast and prevent Gen Chawalit's party from gaining a political foothold in other regions of the country.

In the end, this system, if adopted, would prevent the NAP becoming a core of the next coalition government.

"This is inevitable—more certain than the sun rising in the east," boasted one senior STP member. The STP is now 90 percent ready for the election and all political plans and aims have been achieved, the member said.

The election of ACM Sombun as Chat Thai leader further enhances the STP's prospects because it is expected that the new leader, with close ties to ACM Kaset, will ensure cooperation with the STP.

Political sources said the National Legislative Assembly is expected to consider the draft Constitution in its final reading by the end of next month. NAP senior member Wira Musikaphong warned, however, that if the NPKC [National Peace-Keeping Council] pushes ahead with constitutional amendments which perpetuate the military's power heightened political tension can be expected before the final reading.

Under the interim Constitution, a two-week waiting period is necessary between the second and third readings.

Apart from the enlarged constituencies and whether or not a party slate system is adopted, other amendments expected to be introduced will increase the voting age from 18 to 20, make the Senate Speaker the Parliamentary President and increase senators' powers to monitor government performance.

There have been reports that student organisations, workers and some political parties plan a united front—which the public would be asked to support—aimed at derailing what has been described as an undemocratic constitution.

"Any political move by the NPKC to amend the Constitution in its favour would be totally unacceptable and we will resolutely oppose this undemocratic move until the end," said Students' Federation of Thailand president Parinya Thewanarumit during a ceremony marking the 18th anniversary of the October 14, 1973 uprising.

About 7,000 people joined the SFT's parade from the university to the Democracy Monument where the participants committed themselves to fight for democracy in the country.

"The NPKC is underestimating the power of the people. We have confidence that the people will support our democratic struggle and we don't think the NPKC can succeed in reversing the global trend towards democracy," said one student leader.

But on the other hand, the NPKC remains confident that the political situation will remain under control.

"Any protest that does not respect or abide by the country's law will be unacceptable and we will deal with this firmly," warned one Class 5 officer of the Chulachomklao Royal Military Academy.

Vietnam

Vo Van Kiet Welcomes Visit by French Banker

BK1910152491 Hanoi VNA in English 1436 GMT 19 Oct 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA Oct. 19—Credit Lyonnais is ready to help the state bank and commercial banks of Vietnam in personnel training as well as in their activities aimed at promoting Vietnam's trade relations with the world market, affirmed Jean-Yves Haberer, president of Credit Lyonnais, in his Oct. 18 meeting with Chairman of the Council of Ministers Vo Van Kiet.

President Jean-Yves Haberer, who paid a visit to Vietnam from Oct. 16-19 expressed his admiration at the achievements recorded by the Vietnamese people in their renovation process.

Chairman Vo Van Kiet welcomed J.Y. Haberer's working visit and Credit Lyonnais' willingness to contribute to the development of Vietnam. He expressed his satisfaction at the result of the working sessions between President J.Y. Haberer and leading officials of the Vietnam State Bank,considering it an encouragement to Vietnam.

He also expressed his hope that after this visit, the cooperative relations between the Vietnam State Bank and Credit Lyonnais would further develop and yield practical results in the interests of the two countries.

While here, the delgation had working sessions with Deputy Governor of the State Bank Le Van Chau. The two sides informed each other of their banks' activities and were unanimous on measures to strengthen the cooperation between the two countries, particularly Credit Lyonnais' possibility to participate in attracting more investment in Vietnam.

President J.Y. Haberer expressed his desire to open Credit Lyonnais' branch in Vietnam.

The delegation also met with leading officials of the Ministries of Commerce and Tourism and of Finance, the State Committee for Cooperation and Investment as well as the State Commission for Sciences, and visited some cultural establishment and historical relics in Hanoi.

Governor of Gibraltar Arrives on Official Visit

BK1610161391 Hanoi VNA in English 1439 GMT 16 Oct 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA Oct. 16—Mr J.J. Bossano, governor of the Republic of Gibraltar, arrived here this afternoon for an official visit to Vietnam.

The governor and his party, including a number of high-ranking officials, were welcomed on his arrival by Le Van Triet, minister of commerce and tourism.

The same day, Minister Le Van Triet had a working session with Governor Bossano. The two sides expressed their wishes for broadening economic cooperation between Vietnam and Gibraltar. They discussed possibilities to have economic cooperation in the fields of trade, tourism, banking and labour resources.

Vice Premier Hosts Reception

BK1810155791 Hanoi VNA in English 1428 GMT 18 Oct 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA Oct. 18—Standing Vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers Phan Van Khai has expressed his hope that the relations of friendship and cooperation between Vietnam and Gibraltar would further develop.

The Vietnamese vice-premier was speaking at his reception here Thursday of the chief minister of Gibraltar, Mr.J.J. Bossano, and his party, who arrived wednesday for an official visit to Vietnam. Mr Phan Van Khai also expressed his satisfaction at the results of contacts and talks between the visiting delegation and Vietnam's interested offices and organizations.

For his part, Chief Minister Bossano said he was optimistic about the results of his working sessions with Vietnamese officials on various economic fields, and considered them the first steps in the relations of cooperation between Vietnam and Gibraltar in the interests of each country.

While here, the Gibraltar chief minister and his party held talks with the ministries of commerce and tourism, foreign affairs, construction, heavy industry, and transport, communication and posts, and some other concerned sectors. The talks focussed on the possibilities of their bilateral cooperation in the areas of labour, finance, banking, and export of tourist yachts, arts and crafts.

Vo Van Kiet's ASEAN Tour To Bolster Ties

BK2110130991 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 21 Oct 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] The Vietnamese Foreign Ministry has announced that Chairman of the Council of Ministers Vo Van Kiet is about to pay official visits to three ASEAN countries, namely Indonesia, Thailand, and Singapore. Our radio commentator contributes the following:

Mr. Vo Van Kiet is the highest Vietnamese official ever to visit Southeast nations since 1978. His visit takes place while the settlement of the Cambodian problem is virtually nearing an end. Therefore, it is of special significance to Vietnam. It will open up a new phase of development in the relations between Vietnam and the ASEAN countries.

Recently, bilateral ties between Vietnam and the ASEAN have changed for the better in several domains, especially in economy. Indonesia, in particular, has exchanged visits of high level with Vietnam. The official visit to Vietnam by Indonesian President Suharto had been the first one made a head of state of ASEAN over the past 10 years.

Notably, ASEAN countries seem to be leading in investing in Vietnam. ASIA WEEK REVIEW, in a recent issue, said most ASEAN countries are interested in investing in and trading with Vietnam due to its potential market, which benefits them a great deal. Thailand has by now invested in Vietnam more than $36 million, followed by Indonesia, Singapore, and the Philippines.

Vietnam, ASEAN, including Thai, are all the more meaningful in face of existing U.S. trade embargo against Vietnam. [sentence as heard] As a result, Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet's visit to those ASEAN countries is expected to place in a faithful atmosphere of cooperation and will be crowned with success. Mr. Kiet will sign several important agreements with those ASEAN countries, including that on investment protection and trade with Thailand.

Public opinion of Vietnam and Southeast Asia is looking forward to the visit by Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet. Vietnam hopes that this visit will contribute to strengthening relations between Vietnam and ASEAN and to peace and stability in the region and the rest of the world.

'New Stage' of Relations With Thailand Reviewed

BK1710155391 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0015 GMT 17 Oct 91

[Station editor Diep Thanh's review of developments in Thai-Vietnamese relations]

[Summary] "Vietnam and Thailand are the two countries in Southeast Asia with a similarity in terms of mountains and forests. Both retain an advantageous position for agricultural development and have a prominent market for their farm, forest, aquatic, and industrial products. Due to these similar characteristics, many Thai businessmen have long entertained the prospects of cooperation between the two countries.

"Since the late 1980's, relations between Vietnam and Thailand have constantly been strengthened through various official friendship visits exchanged by high-level delegations of the two states, which began with the visit to Vietnam by Thai Foreign Minister Sitthi Sawetsila in early 1989. The visit, considered by the world press as historical because it was the first visit to Vietnam by a high-ranking Thai official in 13 years, affirmed that Thai-Vietnamese relations have entered a new stage."

This was followed by the visit to Thailand by the Vietnamese foreign and other friendship visits to Vietnam by many delegations of different components from the Thai side, such as the Thai House Foreign Relations Committee and the Thai military.

The new government in Thailand, which took over power in February 1991, still advocates the expansion of cooperation with Vietnam and retains former Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan's invitation to the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of Vietnam to pay an official friendship visit to Thailand.

"In a report submitted to the parliament in April 1991, new Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun again emphasized Thailand's stand on strengthening economic, trade, and investment cooperation with the countries in the region, including Vietnam. A concrete manifestation of this stand was the ratification by the Thai Government on 15 May 1991 of the document establishing a joint Thai-Vietnamese committee for economic cooperation, which had been proposed a year earlier.

"The recent official friendship visit to Vietnam by Thai Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin has contributed significantly to expanding cooperation between the two countries. Both sides clearly realize that relations in Southeast Asia are entering a new stage and that Vietnam and Thailand are playing an important role in helping to create an atmosphere of peace and stability in the region."

In a press conference in Hanoi, Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin affirmed that the prosperity of Vietnam is the prosperity of Thailand itself.

"Later on, there will still be important meetings between high-ranking leaders of Vietnam and Thailand. The ambassador of the Kingdom of Thailand to Vietnam has just forwarded to Vo Van Kiet, chairman of the Council of Ministers, a letter from Thai Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun inviting the chairman to pay an official friendship visit to Thailand.

"Chairman Vo Van Kiet has sent a message of thanks to the Thai prime minister, in which he expressed the belief that with the goodwill and efforts of both sides, his visit to Thailand will achieve practical results, thereby helping to ensure that the cooperation between the two countries will expand further and will be endowed with new quality."

CPV Greets Cambodian Party Congress Opening

BK1710154591 Hanoi VNA in English 1439 GMT 17 Oct 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA Oct. 17—The Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee has extended its warmest greetings to the extraordinary congress of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea [PRPK] [word indistinct] opened in Phnom Penh this morning which it said is of special importance.

In its message, the CPV Central Committee said: "With efforts made between Cambodian factions and concerned countries and especially the State of Cambodia the peace agreement on Cambodia is going to be signed and the Cambodian revolution is embarking on a new stage.

"In such a situation, the PRPK congress is of special importance. We believe that the implementation of the congress's resolutions will contribute to building a Cambodia of independence, peace, freedom, democracy, neutrality and social progress, which has friendly and cooperative relations with all countries, first of all the neighbouring ones, for the sake of peace, stability and cooperation in Southeast Asia and the world over.

The Communist Party and people of Vietnam always support the Cambodian people/revolution and [word indistinct] their utmost to consolidate and strengthen the traditional solidarity and friendship between the two parties and peoples".

The message wished the congress fine success.

Vietnamese People 'Fully Support' Cuban Aspirations

BK1410154991 Hanoi VNA in English 1452 GMT 14 Oct 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA October 14—The Vietnamese people fully support Cuba's aspirations as expouded in the address of the Cuban foreign minister at the 46th session of the UN General Assembly demanding that the United States lift its economic blockade against Cuba, stop all its hostile policies and acts towards Cuba and withdraw all its troops from Guantanamo.

This came in a message sent today by Nguyen Huu Tho, president of the Presidium of the Vietnam Fatherland Front Central Committee to Sixto Batista, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba and chairman of the Committee for the Defence of the Revolution.

The message expressed the Vietnamese people's firm confidence in the success of the Cuban people in safeguarding their revolutionary gains under the leadership of the Communist Party.

PRC Maritime Specialists Visit 16-18 Oct

BK1810160391 Hanoi VNA in English 1430 GMT 18 Oct 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA Oct. 18—Vietnamese and Chinese maritime specialists met in Hanoi from October 16-18 to discuss measures to be taken to broaden their countries' maritime cooperation.

They have already prepared a draft agreement on maritime commerce to be signed by the two governments in the near future.

During their stay in Vietnam, the Chinese specialists were received by Bui Van Suong, vice minister of transport, communication and posts. They also toured a number of institutions of Vietnam's maritime service in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City.

Soviet Cultural Delegation Visits 8-14 Oct

BK1610085891 Hanoi VNA in English 0608 GMT 16 Oct 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA Oct. 16—A delegation of the Soviet society for cultural relation with compatriots abroad ('Motherland' society) led by its Vice President V.E. Gavrilovich paid a visit to Vietnam from Oct.8-14, at the invitation of the Central Overseas Vietnamese Commission (COVC).

Hoang Bich Son, head of the COVC, warmly received and had working sessions with the delegation.

While here, the delegation visited the late president Ho Chi Minh's home and office, and called on Vice Chairman of the Council of Ministers Nguyen Khanh.

It also called at the people's committee and various cultural and economic establishments in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City and Vung Tau.

Vo Van Kiet Receives Lao Ambassador

BK1610122091 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 15 Oct 91

[Text] On 15 October afternoon at the Presidential Palace, Vo Van Kiet, chairman of the Council of Ministers, received Khamppheth Phengmuang, Lao ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Vietnam.

Chairman Vo Van Kiet welcomed Ambassador Khamppheth Phengmuang on his appointment in Vietnam and gave assurances that he would create every condition for the ambassador to complete his official duties.

Chairman Vo Van Kiet exchanged views in a friendly manner with the ambassador and expressed his pleasure at the fine success of the official friendship visit of President Kaysone Phomvihan.

The chairman considered the president's visit as a landmark to strengthen and develop the friendly relations and special solidarity as well as the comprehensive cooperation between the two brotherly countries of Vietnam and Laos.

Vo Van Kiet Receives Italian Ambassador 16 Oct

BK1610160391 Hanoi VNA in English 1435 GMT 16 Oct 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA Oct. 16—Chairman of the Council of Ministers Vo Van Kiet received here this morning Italian Ambassador to Vietnam Maurizio Teucei.

Chairman Vo Van Kiet expressed his satisfaction over the development of the friendship and cooperation between Vietnam and Italy.

He highly appreciated the Italian Government's resumption in 1990 of its direct economic aid to Vietnam, and its present efforts to step up the cooperative relations between the two countries. The chairman underlined the Vietnamese people's determination to overcome all difficulties to obtain high effectiveness in its cooperation with Italy in the interest of the two countries.

He expressed his hope that the two sides would work together to find measures to develop the cooperation between the governments, and the governmental and private companies of Italy and Vietnam in various fields and on different scales.

Chairman Vo Van Kiet highly valued the important contribution of Ambassador Teucei to the strengthening of relations between the two countries.

For his part the Italian ambassador expressed his hope for the further strengthening of those relations.

Joint Scrap Iron Venture Launched With Japan

BK1410090591 Hanoi VNA in English 0603 GMT 14 Oct 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA Oct. 14—A scrap iron-processing joint venture called 'Pacific Ocean Steel' has been established between Nissho Iwai Corporation and Osaka Scrap Iron Processing Company, of Japan, and Vijaha Company of Vietnam .

Pacific Ocean Steel is 60 percent owned by the Japanese partners and 40 percent by Vijaha.

The undertaking headquartered in Ho Chi Minh City, is capable of processing annually some 60,000 tons of scrap iron, most of which come from military equipment and ships. Its products will be marketed domestically and exported to Japan, ASEAN countries, Taiwan and South Korea.

According to Nissho P-I's spokesman, the venture's capacity will be doubled in two or three years. It also plans to demolish old ships, relaminate steel sheets and produce steel bars for construction.

Over recent years, Japan has become a major importer of scrap iron from Vietnam, with 12,000 tons in 1983, 237,000 tons in 1989 and 147,000 tons in 1990. In the first five months of this year, it imported 60,000 tons from Vietnam accounting for one fifth of its total volume of imported scrap iron.

Prime Minister on Political, Economic Reform

PM1710090691 Paris LE MONDE in French 15 Oct 91 pp 1,5

[Interview with Vietnamese Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet by Jean-Claude Pomonti in Hanoi—date not given]

[Text] Hanoi—[Pomonti] There has been a great deal of discussion over the past five years about economic reforms in Vietnam and your country being opened up to the outside world. There is less talk of political reforms. What is the position?

[Vo Van Kiet] The aim of the economic reforms is to promote stability and facilitate progress and development. We have been able to do that. Step by step we are building a rule-of-law state. But political reform creates the right conditions for economic reform, and vice versa. We must reform the management of the state from top to bottom—from the National Assembly to the government and including the local councils. We are studying all experiments, including countries where there is rotation of parties in government. But the current constitutional reform must be conducted in accordance with the Vietnamese situation. It must meet Vietnamese requirements.

[Pomonti] Which means?

[Vo Van Kiet] The party defines the main guidelines. But it must not replace state mechanisms. How to adapt—that is the problem which we must solve.

[Pomonti] Ministers are elected individually by the Assembly. Do you want the prime minister to form his government and present it collectively? And do you want the head of government to have more autonomy from the party?

[Vo Van Kiet] Yes. One of the essential political reforms in Vietnam is the reform of the party, the redefinition of its role. The government must have greater autonomy, responsibilities, and efficacy. It is not surprising that this will consolidate the party's leadership role. This even strikes me as very appropriate. We are currently working to enable the prime minister to form a government team which he will submit to the assembly for approval.

[Pomonti] Is it also possible to envisage the appointment of people who are not members of the Communist Party to important ministerial posts?

[Vo Van Kiet] In the future, we will choose people on the basis of their ability. It will therefore not be compulsory to be a member of the party Central Committee and possibly not compulsory to be a party member. We would like to have responsible people in their economic, social, and cultural spheres of competence.

[Pomonti] Will you make use of foreign experts?

[Vo Van Kiet] In the past few years, we have called on experts within the party, the population, and Vietnamese communities overseas. We have also used the services of international organizations, for instance to draft the foreign investment code and other banking and financial regulations. In particular, on several occasions we have called on French experts and we send our cadres to study at the National Administration School. But we need more foreign experts, if only to guarantee the link between Vietnam and the rest of the region, which is now a priority for us.

[Pomonti] Do you think that access to international credit—of which you are deprived by the U.S. economic embargo, which has just been extended for a year—is a priority in view of your country's current economic problems?

[Vo Van Kiet] Vietnam is emerging from a long conflict. Its economy is limited and weak. We therefore need to mobilize all our resources first. But, in view of the consequences of the war, and some mistakes which we made, a foreign contribution is essential. Vietnam's development has great need of foreign sources of finance. The high level of growth in neighboring countries which have enjoyed foreign financial resources proves that. When we also have such a contribution, we will progress very rapidly because we will then be able to exploit our country's great potential.

[Pomonti] In this connection, what is the state of your relations with the United States following the visit to Hanoi last week of General Vessey, President Bush's adviser?

[Vo Van Kiet] Vietnam, the United States, and the other countries concerned can contribute to the stabilization of the region. The United States had put forward our withdrawal from Cambodia as a precondition for the normalization of our bilateral relations. We withdrew our troops in 1989; and, on 23 October, we will sign an international agreement with them on Cambodia in Paris. And yet, the Americans have just extended the embargo for a year. However, some people think that this is a technical decision and that, with the intervention of a Cambodian settlement, it will not last a year. We are doing all we can to normalize our relations with the United States because, in our region, this is the only abnormal aspect of the situation....

[Pomonti] Are you envisaging a Soviet withdrawal from the Vietnamese base of Cam-Ranh following a U.S. military withdrawal from the Philippines?

[Vo Van Kiet] Our diplomacy has as its priority the strengthening of peace and stability and new friendly relations in the region. We do not want the presence of any foreign base, not only in Southeast Asia but in the whole Asia-Pacific zone. If the Americans no longer have military bases in our region, Vietnam and the Soviet Union will give their verdict on the fate of Cam-Ranh.

State Bank Governor on Economic Reform, Ties

BK1710034391 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 17 Oct 91 pp 1, 3

[From the special "World Bank/IMF 1991" supplement]

[Text] Vietnam's seven-year-old economic reform will not collapse but only proceed at a slower pace without external support, Vietnam's State Bank Governor Cao Sy Kiem told the BANGKOK POST yesterday.

In an interview before the special meeting on his country's situation in the afternoon, the Governor also revealed that Japan indicated some signs of flexibility towards Vietnam.

"We will not collapse because we have gone through hard times. Without external aid, we will be in a very different situation, but we can stand on our own. We can proceed with the reform, but maybe at a slow pace," the Governor said.

The Vietnamese delegation would not attend the meeting convened by France to press ahead with "the stand-by programme" to mobilise donor resources so that Vietnam can clear the U.S.$110 million debit with the International Monetary Fund and get fresh loans.

Officials of the World Bank and the IMF which have done extensive studies about the economic situation would brief the donors at that session, Mr Kiem said.

"We have met with the President of the World Bank, the Managing Director of the IMF, and the President of the Paris Club and discussed our situation. In general, all officials showed the willingness to support Vietnam in this matter," he said.

The governor insisted that Vietnam has "fulfilled the obligations" required by these two institutions, as is evident by its continuous efforts to transform its centrally planned economy into a market one.

"We have done all our best to create conditions for this meeting (with the help of France) to be successful," he said.

France initiated the stand-by arrangement session for Vietnam in April this year, in which it pledged U.S.$50 million to fund the programme. France was hoping for a more enthusiastic response from donors this time, with the signing of the Cambodian peace pact in Paris on October 23.

"The elements in place for this meeting are favourable, but maybe it will take some time to succeed," the governor said.

But U.S. opposition loomed as an almost insurmountable obstacle to France and other sympathetic donors, analysts said.

The trade and investment embargo which the U.S. has imposed on Vietnam since 1975 has effectively blocked Vietnam's access to multilateral lending, besides Vietnam's arrears with the IMF.

"We always wish the relationship between Vietnam and the U.S. was normal. We are ready to forget the past and look to the future," he said, adding that Vietnam has done its utmost to help attain a Cambodian solution and in accounting for missing U.S. servicemen.

Japan supports the U.S. position, although its private sector has been the most active trading partner with Vietnam.

Asked to comment on the Japanese stance, Mr Kiem said he was told by IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus who spoke to the Japanese that Tokyo has adopted "a more positive posture" this time.

Regarding the amount of money required for full-fledged reform, the Governor said the country would need over one billion dollars. The more it can borrow from external sources, the more investment programmes it can develop, he said.

Senior World Bank officials said the aggressive economic reform in Vietnam could run into problems of funding and broad acceptance without immediate injection of external support.

Vietnam is in dire need of massive loans to improve its backward infrastructure and modernise its production facilities.

While in Bangkok, Mr Kiem also met with Mr Li Guixian, governor of the People's Bank of China and governor of the Fund for China.

Vietnam and China have in recent months concluded several cooperation pacts and sped up preparations for full normalisation later this year.

"We have laid the grounds for further relations. I have agreed with the governor of the People' Bank that we will continue discussions of specific issues either in Hanoi or Beijing," Mr Kiem said about his meeting with the Chinese.

The governor added that the relationship between central bank authorities in Thailand and Vietnam ought to be a step ahead of other aspects of bilateral economic cooperation.

The Joint Commission for Economic Cooperation between Thailand and Vietnam will hold its first meeting today and tomorrow in preparation for Vietnamese Prime Minsiter Vo Van Kiet's official visit to Bangkok from October 28-30.

Directive on Agricultural Tax Collection Issued

BK1810154191 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 17 Oct 91

[Text] On 14 October, the chairman of the Council of Ministers issued Directive No. 313 on work related to agricultural taxes in late 1991 and 1992. The directive points out positive changes in work related to agricultural taxes in recent years as well as existing shortcomings and weaknesses that have slowly been overcome. Noteworthy is the situation in which the practices of indefinitely postponing tax payments and appropriating tax money still exist on a large scale; taxation still does not correspond to production capacity and has not yet been imposed on all cultivated areas and would-be taxpayers; tax reduction and exemption are widespread; and tax rates are low compared to local market prices, thus adversely affecting the source of state revenue.

The directive also points out the tasks related to agricultural taxes in late 1991 and 1992 that should be scrupulously performed by all echelons and sectors:

1. Concentrating on the collection of the number of taxes that must be levied in 1991 and the number of overdue taxes in previous years.

2. Granting agricultural tax exemption in compliance with President Ho Chi Minh's testament until the end of 1991.

3. Ensuring that all peasant families, cooperatives, production collectives, state farms, state-run stations, and plantations—including those run by the armed forces and schools—declare the sizes of their areas for tax computation and directly pay taxes to the state budget in accordance with the guidance of tax organs.

4. Adjusting the classification of land in areas that have changed the direction of production for tax computation.

5. Efficiently organizing tax collection and payment in each harvesting season.

6. Intensively, constantly, and judiciously inspecting and supervising the payment of taxes among all individual organizations.

7. Strengthening and consolidating the organization and contingent of cadres responsible for agricultural taxes, especially at village level, and regularly providing them with training and advanced training to improve their professional knowledge and ability, while eliminating immediately those weak and unqualified cadres from tax organs.

Chairman Le Quang Dao Visits Central Provinces

BK1710143391 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 16 Oct 91

[Text] A delegation of the Council of State led by Comrade Le Quang Dao, chairman of the National Assembly and vice chairman of the Council of State, paid a working visit to Thuan Hai, Khanh Hoa, Gia Lai, Cong Tum, and Dac Lac provinces in early October.

The delegation had working sessions with the leaders of these provinces. It also toured a number of districts and economic establishments and examined the implementation of various resolutions adopted by the National Assembly at its eighth and ninth sessions on socioeconomic development and on the redelineation of administrative boundaries. They also looked into the prompt and fair settlement of various corruption and smuggling cases in the localities.

In particular, while in Tay Nguyen, Gia Lai, Cong Tum, and Dac Lac provinces, the delegation sought to understand and examine the local situation, and contributed its views on forestry production, protection, development, and exploitation, over the question of settled farming and settled life, and on the implementation of a policy of promoting solidarity among the people of various ethnic minority groups.

In Gia Lai and Cong Tum provinces, the delegate heard reports and took note of difficulties encountered in implementing the National Assembly resolutions adopted at its ninth session on the gerrymandering of provinces and in securing the budget for the building of the half-finished A Dun Pa farmland irrigation project and other road projects, and of the minimum conditions needed to promptly stabilize these two provinces which were recently a single province.

On behalf of the delegation, Chairman Le Quang Dao commended these provinces—which are said to be among those with the most difficulties in Central Vietnam and in the Central Highlands—for having upheld their spirit of self-reliance, and their creativity in applying the line of renewal. As a result, not only have these provinces been able to build a remarkable socioeconomic infrastructure and spur increassed production in accordance with their strengths and created new models they have also helped reduce the budgetary subsidy from the central government.

The comrade urged various mountain provinces and districts to protect forest resources while exploiting national resources and improving the socioeconomic situation of the local people.

Nguyen Khanh Attends Education Anniversary Fete

BK1610144591 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 15 Oct 91

[Station correspondent's report on Hanoi 15 October meeting to mark 45th founding anniversary of the preschool education sector]

[Summary] "Dear friends, at the Children's Palace in Hanoi on 15 October, the Ministry of Education and Training held a solemn meeting to mark the 45th founding anniversary of the pre-school education sector. Attending the function were Nguyen Thi Dinh, vice chairman of the Council of State and chairman of the Vietnam Women's Association; Nguyen Khanh, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers and chairman of the committee for protection and education of children; Tran Hong Quan minister of education and training;

representatives of mass organizations, sectors, and branches at the central level and in Hanoi; veteran cadres who have given meritorious service to the education sector; teachers who hold the labor hero and outstanding people's teacher titles; representatives from kindergarten schools throughout the country; and representatives from the Cuban, Lao, Cambodian, DPRK embassies, and UNICEF."

Addressing the ceremony comade Tran Hong Quan reviewed the history of the pre-school education sector, its significant role, and its results achieved during the past 45 years.

In his speech to the meeting Comrade Nguyen Khanh said:

"[Begin Nguyen Khanh recording] On the occasion of the 45th founding anniversary of the pre-school education sector, I agree with the Ministry of Education and Training's intention to draw more lessons from the orientations, objectives, policies, and work methods of nurseries and kindergarten schools during the past years to formulate plans and policies aimed at improving and developing pre-school education to suit the present, new situation and the conditions in the days ahead. The Council of Ministers and the Ministry of Education and Training are formulating a general education program for the education and training system of our nation in accordance with the spirit of the seventh communist party congress resolution. The content and form of pre-school education will be clearly defined in this general education program, which should be in close association with the universalization of primary education and in conformity with the law on the care, protection, and education of children adopted by the recent ninth session of the eighth national assembly. I propose that the Ministry of Education and Training and its pre-school education department continue to study and clearly define the orientations and tasks of nurseries and kindergarten schools in the present situation. The pre-school education task should be aimed at fostering and developing children for the future of our nation. It can be said that training children from their childhood is one of the most important tasks in the cause of human development over a 100 year period. Commemorating the 45th founding anniversary of the pre-school education sector, we should realize our responsibility in protecting and educating children, try to meet urgent requirements of this lofty task, and strive—in the framework of the authority of each organization, unit, and individual—to contribute effort and energy toward overcoming difficulties and developing more vigorously the pre-school education undertaking in the days ahead. [end recording]"

Afterward, Comrade Nguyen Thi Dinh delivered her speech. She said:

"[Begin Nguyen Thi Dinh recording] Today, we are happy to commemorate the 45th founding anniversary of the pre-school education sector. This event is of great significance. Generally speaking, we are confident that our party, state, and people will consistently take the interests of our children to heart and provide favorable conditions for them to develop satisfactorily. The Vietnam Women's Union realizes that cultivating and training children in their childhood is one of the most important tasks. As a result, the union has closely coordinated with the pre-school education sector to train and educate children at various kindergarten schools once they have been established. It can be said that during the past period we have shared weal and woe and have worked shoulder-to-shoulder with you comrades of the pre-school education sector to help it develop further and make new progress so as to effectively implement Uncle Ho's teaching: To plant trees we need only 10 years; but to cultivate men we need 100 years. [end recording]"

Also at this ceremony, the Minister of Education and Training conferred certificates of commendation to 137 individuals and 36 units of localities for their great contributions to the pre-school education sector.

VNA Reviews Hanoi Newspapers for 18 Oct

BK1810073491 Hanoi VNA in English 0601 GMT 18 Oct 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA October 18—Newspapers here today carry a message of greetings from the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam to the Extraordinary Congress of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea opened in Phnom Penh on Oct. 17.

The papers carry a report on a regular press briefing here yesterday afternoon at which Mrs Ho The Lan, spokeswoman and head of the Information and Press Department of the Foreign Ministry, affirmed that the illegal departures of Vietnamese nationals from the country are not what Vietnam wants, and that Vietnam has never accepted forced repatriation.

Chairman of the Council of Ministers Do Muoi addressed the seventh session of the Central Committee of the Vietnam Women's Union held here from Oct. 14-17 to discuss its preparations for the 7th National Women Congress expected to be held in May 1992, the papers report.

NHAN DAN reports that Mr. J.J. Bossano, chief minister of Gibraltar, has arrived here for an official visit to Vietnam.

The English language daily VIETNAM NEWS reports that 140 local projects have been worked out for the settlement of some two million namads in mountain regions across the country, and that so far this year Vietnam has shipped abroad 60,000 tons of coffee including 14,400 tonnes exported by the Vietnam Union of Coffee Enterprises.

The papers quote Jean-Claude Trichet, head of the French treasury, as saying in Bangkok that France is encouraged by growing support for restoring aid to

Vietnam and hopes to reach an accord with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) soon.

Major international news reports include the first day of the Extraordinary Congress of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea opened in Phnom Penh yesterday morning with the participation of 297 delegates, the United Nations' election of five new nonpermanent members on Wednesday to its 15-strong Security Council and preparations for the coming International Paris Conference on Cambodia.

VNA Reviews Hanoi Newspapers for 19 Oct

BK1910082291 Hanoi VNA in English 0639 GMT 19 Oct 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA Oct. 19—Newspapers here today frontpage a report on Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam's leaving here on Friday for Paris to attend the international conference on Cambodia to be held in the French capital on October 23.

Also frontpaged are reports on Premier Vo Van Kiet's reception of President of Credit Lyonnais, Mr. Jean-Yves Haberer on a working visit to Vietnam, and on First Vice Premier Phan Van Khai's meeting on Friday with the visiting chief minister of Gibraltar, Mr. Joe Bossana.

The papers report that Vietnamese and Chinese experts have drafted an agreement on cooperation in sea transport during a visit to Vietnam by a group of Chinese experts.

The papers quote a representative of the Vietnamese permanent mission to the United Nations as rejecting at the October 15 General Assembly session groundless allegations against Vietnamese Army volunteers in Cambodia contained in a report of the Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee of the U.N.

The papers report on a seminar entitled "Renovation Process in Vietnam and the Vietnam-Bremen Cooperation Relations" held in the port city Bremen, Germany, on October 16.

The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) has opened an office here to help speed up the Orderly Departures Programme (ODP) and the voluntary repatriation of illegal Vietnamese migrants from Hong Kong and other parts of Southeast Asia, the papers report.

Sport reports are about the coming tour of Indonesia by a soccer team of the Vietnam People's Army and Vietnamese athletes leaving for Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, to attend the 9th Asian Track and Field Championships.

International reports deal with the closing in Phnom Penh yesterday of the Extraordinary Congress of the Party of Cambodian People.